

JANUARY 22, 2019

Hope for the Angry Child.....

Written By: Rachel Macy Stafford - Hands Free Mama Blog

I haven't spoken of this experience for over fifteen years; I have definitely never written about it. Yet, when the memories of this time came rushing back, I had to pull off the highway and find a gas station where I could scribble my notes. It's taken four weeks to transform my notes into readable form, but I have no doubt the timing of this message is perfect for someone reading today. This is my story...and Vince's* story.

I had just one year of teaching under my belt and was taking classes towards my master's degree in special education. Though barely qualified to teach students with challenging behavior disorders, I quickly assessed that academic training wasn't going to make me a successful teacher—it had more to do with the connections I made with my students.

The way this particular school set up its special education program for behaviorally challenged students allowed me to form lasting bonds with my students. Rather than having a self-contained classroom, I had one-on-one time with each of my sixteen students throughout the school day. By providing direct support to the children and their teachers, the school district believed these exceptional students could be successfully mainstreamed into a tradition classroom. Furthermore, it was not unusual for me to work with a particular student for multiple years.

Such was the case with Vince. Vince had compliance and anger issues but we had made significant strides in our first year together. Vince was an adorable child who looked forward to our one-on-one lessons and my frequent check-ins to his regular classroom.

On this particular evening, a typical event for a new school year was taking place. It was "Meet the Teacher" night. All the teachers were lined up, preparing to walk across the stage as we were introduced. As we waited for the principal to take the podium, I noticed Vince's mother making her way through the crowded gymnasium. She was coming straight toward me in breathless haste.

When she spoke, I thought I did not hear her correctly – there was no way I could have heard her right. As the blood drained from my face, I leaned closer praying I had misheard. Vince's mother repeated the words that seemed incomprehensible, unbearable, and repulsive to my ears. **CONTINUE READING** *Name has been changed

\$200 for Kids in Foster Care

IFAPA has funding available for grants for kids in foster care (up to age 13). These grants are available for up to \$200 per youth for activities, sports, etc.

LEARN HOW TO APPLY

MUMPS

Mumps cases continue to occur in Iowa. The Iowa Department of Public Health has developed a frequently asked questions fact sheet on Mumps.

VIEW FACT SHEET

When your child is too scared to fall asleep, it can be a major issue. Your child is losing precious sleep time.

Here are 10 great ways to help your child feel more comfortable and face that fear!

MY CHILD IS
TOO SCARED TO SLEEP



What RAD Means to Me

Written By: Shivonne Costa

Each child is unique... And that includes each child with RAD (Reactive Attachment Disorder). Whether your child was adopted, fostered, separated from you due to various circumstances such as hospitalizations for you or baby during those formative years, or born with another disorder that made attachment impossible early on, how we got here is sometimes our focus. It's easy to place blame, point fingers, or feel like the victim. It's easy, because we are human and we are up against insurmountable odds, day in and day out.

As parents raising these kids, we often feel like we stand in the crossfire of our children and the world. However the situation came to be, we all wake up each morning with a mindset different from that of parents raising children who attach freely. We are the warriors who face endless ridicule from the ones we raise as well as from the society we live in.

And so, in honor of my fellow parents of children with this difficult diagnosis, let me tell you what RAD means to me.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

START PLANNING FOR SUMMER CAMP

IFAPA can assist with summer camp fees for youth in foster care (age 13 and under). Here is a listing of summer camps in Iowa.

[Iowa Summer Camps](#)



Click Here for a copy of the Friends program application and information, when you find the perfect summer camp for your kiddos.

[Friends Program Information/Application](#)

5 Lessons I've Learned From Parenting A Child With FASD

Written By: Mike Berry (Confessions of an Adoptive Parent Blog)

Ten years ago our oldest son was diagnosed with Alcohol-Related-Nuerodevelopmental-Disorder (ARND), very similar to Fetal-Alcohol-Spectrum-Disorder (FASD), and our lives have been a rollercoaster ride ever since. Recently, however, we've begun learning new lessons about him, ourselves, and what we need to do differently.

Defeating. That's the word that comes to mind when I recount the past decade of parenting our son. He is on the fetal-alcohol spectrum. His brain suffered irreversible damage when he was in his birth mother's womb. The result has been violence, aggression, impulsion, even run-ins with police, the older he becomes.

The other day we were driving home from visiting in-laws when my son asked my wife, "If you could go back in time and change something, what would you change?" She thought for a moment and then answered, "I'd go back to when you were an infant and parent you differently." [CONTINUE READING](#)

This Mother Drank While Pregnant. Here's What Her Daughter's Like at 43 [VIEW ARTICLE](#)