

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

Could Ryan Join Your Family?



Ryan, age 12, is a kind, helpful young man and a great Boy Scout!

Ryan likes to be outside and enjoys animals. He currently participates in Boy Scouts, and he really enjoyed his Pinewood Derby® project, where Scouts build and race their own derby cars. Ryan also participates in Awanas.

Ryan is described as polite and has a good sense of humor. On a good day, he will accept gentle teasing. Ryan can play by himself for several hours at a time, but he can also be a team player. Ryan does a great job doing his assigned chores at his foster home. He does require help with staying on task and following through on homework, and he sometimes needs help understanding how his behavior can affect other people. He is working at grade level, but needs support with academics and behaviors.

Ryan's DHS adoption worker will consider potential adoptive families from all states. Ryan would do best in a home with two parents or a single male parent. His adoptive family should be patient as transitions are difficult for Ryan. The family will also need to be committed to supporting his intellectual and behavioral concerns.

Ryan says he would like a mom and dad and would enjoy having a sibling. He would love a family who has animals or lives on a farm. Some of the activities he would like to do with his adoptive family include Boy Scouts, riding bikes and playing outside together.

Most importantly, Ryan wants people to know he just "wants to be part of a family." Could you be Ryan's loving forever family? [Click here to get more information.](#)

Resources from the American Academy of Pediatrics

When to Tell Your Child About Their Adoption

For some parents, telling their child that he is adopted is a formidable, anxiety-provoking task, and thus they put it off or avoid it. However, at some point adopted youngsters need to be told about their origins, ideally even before middle childhood. During their preschool years, children begin asking questions like "Where do babies come from?" That is a good time to begin introducing information about their special backgrounds. [READ MORE](#)



Answering Your Adopted Child's Questions about Their Adoption

Many parents want to know when is the best time to tell a child she is adopted. The answer is that it is never too early to talk to your child about adoption. Before age 3, include age-appropriate [children's books on adoption](#) as part of your child's reading routine. Give your child information little by little, as much as she can understand. It may take years for your child to fully understand what adoption means. These early talks will give you practice in talking about adoption. They will also show your child that it is OK to bring up the topic. [READ MORE](#)

Answering Your Adopted Child's Questions about Birth Parents

As you raise your adopted child, she is yours in every sense of the word. At the same time, however, there is an aspect to her life—the fact that she has biological parents elsewhere—that may make it necessary for you to "share" her at some point with her past. [READ MORE](#)

Talking to Your Teen about Being Adopted

Between the ages of seven and twelve, many adopted children develop an increasing curiosity about their background and how they came to be adopted. During adolescence, that interest often intensifies. Teenagers sculpt their self-identity largely through studying their parents and siblings. *In what ways am I like them? they ask themselves. How am I different?* Adopted teens may not know this information about their birth parents, and this void can add to their usual adolescent struggles. [READ MORE](#)

Hear It Straight from the Experts

IFAPA Offers Free Classes to Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents

Sat., Sept. 23 9am-12:15pm	<u>Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Foster Care</u> Trainer: Bambi Schrader	3 hours	Ankeny IFAPA Training Center
Sat., Sept. 23 1:15pm-4:30pm	<u>The Good Enough Parent: Promoting Mental Health in Young Children</u> Trainer: Dorothy Lifka	3 hours	Ankeny IFAPA Training Center
Sat., Sept. 23 9am-12:15pm	<u>Parenting the Willful Child</u> Trainer: Joann Seeman Smith, PhD	3 hours	Cedar Falls Hawkeye Comm College
Sat., Sept. 23 1:15pm-4:30pm	<u>The Magic of Healing the Brain and Fostering a Secure Attachment</u> Trainer: Joann Seeman Smith, PhD	3 hours	Cedar Falls Hawkeye Comm College
Sat., Sept. 30 9am-12:15pm	<u>Worrywarts...Understanding Anxiety Disorders in Children</u> Trainer: Warren Phillips, PhD	3 hours	Council Bluffs Holiday Inn Express
Sat., Sept. 30 1:15pm-4:30pm	<u>I Won't Do It and You Can't Make Me</u> Trainer: Warren Phillips, PhD	3 hours	Council Bluffs Holiday Inn Express
Sat., Oct 7 9am-12:15pm	<u>Parenting the Willful Child</u> Trainer: Joann Seeman Smith, PhD	3 hours	Ankeny IFAPA Training Center
Sat., Oct 7 1:15pm-4:30pm	<u>The Magic of Healing the Brain and Fostering a Secure Attachment</u> Trainer: Joann Seeman Smith, PhD	3 hours	Ankeny IFAPA Training Center
Sat., Oct 14 9am-12:15pm	<u>Quirky Kids</u> Trainer: Dorothy Lifka	3 hours	Cedar Rapids Clarion Hotel
Sat., Oct 14 1:15pm-4:30pm	<u>The Good Enough Parent: Promoting Mental Health in Young Children</u> Trainer: Dorothy Lifka	3 hours	Cedar Rapids Clarion Hotel
Sat., Oct 21 9am-4:30pm	<u>Dangerous Playgrounds</u> Trainer: Mike McGuire	6 hours	Ames Gateway Hotel
Sat., Nov 4 9am-12:15pm	<u>Arggg..What Can I Do With My Kids? The Power of Receptive Parenting vs. Reactive Parenting</u> Trainer: Warren Phillips, PhD	3 hours	Ankeny IFAPA Training Center
Sat., Nov 4 1:15pm-4:30pm	<u>Trauma in Children and Teens: What it Really is and What Really Works</u> Trainer: Warren Phillips, PhD	3 hours	Ankeny IFAPA Training Center
Sat., Nov 4 9am-4:30pm	<u>Dangerous Playgrounds</u> Trainer: Mike McGuire	6 hours	Cedar Falls IFAPA Training Center
Sat., Dec 2 9am-12:15pm	<u>Arggg..What Can I Do With My Kids? The Power of Receptive Parenting vs. Reactive Parenting</u> Trainer: Warren Phillips, PhD	3 hours	Cedar Rapids Clarion Hotel
Sat., Dec 2 1:30pm-4:45pm	<u>Trauma in Children and Teens: What it Really is and What Really Works</u> Trainer: Warren Phillips, PhD	3 hours	Cedar Rapids Clarion Hotel
Sat., Dec 2 9am-12:15pm	<u>Building Relationships Through Play</u> Trainer: Tony Raymer	3 hours	Ankeny IFAPA Training Center

THE GOOD ENOUGH PARENT: Promoting Mental Health in Young Children

This class will provide an overview of early childhood mental health and will focus on how foster and adoptive parents can use language and play to strengthen attachment and help their children develop their social and emotional skills.
(Trainer: Dorothy Lifka)

Upcoming Locations:

Sat., Sept. 23 (1:15-4:30pm) – **Ankeny**
Sat., Oct. 14 (1:15-4:30pm) – **Cedar Rapids**

DANGEROUS PLAYGROUNDS 2.0: Drug Awareness and Trends

Do you know the meaning of terms like “Molly, Budda, Robo-Trippin’, Trail Mixing, Space Monkey, HAC Beer, or 710”? Do you understand the world of “designer” or synthetic drugs that have a presence in certain corners of our world? Would you be able to tell if someone is drunk or high, or experimenting with drugs? Are you in the know about the Opioid trends in Iowa? If you answered “no” to any of these questions, then this class is a must for you! Participants will learn the different classifications of abused substances (both legal and illicit) and will leave this training with a working knowledge of the terminology, visual identity, the “how they are used”, the “how they are made”, and the effects of substances on the community. The class emphasizes “latest trends” but also provides updates on those “more familiar” substances that are still alive and well in our communities as they have been for many years.
(Trainer: Mike McGuire)

Upcoming Locations:

Sat., Oct. 21 (9am-4:30pm) - **Ames**
Sat., Nov. 4 (9am-4:30pm) - **Cedar Falls**

TO REGISTER FOR A
TRAINING CLASS:

[Click
Here](#)