



making families happen

The Children's Bridge's Waiting Child (WC) China Program Testimonial:

By Raymond and Leticia

Children's Bridge's Waiting Child (WC) China Program is fantastic. As we began to consider adoption, due to fertility issues, we were fortunate to have already known some families who had previously adopted through Children's Bridge, and who unreservedly recommended them as the clear best option for China adoptions. Over time, it was clear that Children's Bridge merited this reputation.

We cannot thank Children's Bridge enough for their pre-adoption support. Cathy Murphy put us in touch with numerous WC families, from whom we gained invaluable advice and support as we planned and navigated our own adoption journey. It was so important for us to talk to these families about different special needs, as well as their actual experiences in China, and initial time back at home with their new children. These families were a great encouragement and "voice of experience" as we prepared to travel to China, and continue to be so as we help our little child adapt to life in Canada.

Children's Bridge themselves were also fabulous with their own direct pre-adoption support, guiding us through every step of the process. Their huge amount of experience was



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WAITING CHILD PROGRAM...

invaluable: they understand the China adoption process inside-out, and made sure that every form, process, or activity was completely corrected, and well within the time needed. And their experience was also shown in their flexibility and calmness in dealing with the surprises that come with the fact that every adoption is a unique and special voyage.

The adoption guides provided through Children's Bridge to us in China were exceptional. Not only were they thoroughly experienced in dealing with all the necessary paperwork and meetings that we needed to do, they went out of their way to help us, often changing our schedule to accommodate a need that we had, and in our specific case, even dropping everything to help us through an emergency hospital visit that our child needed just before we flew back to Canada.

After we returned home from China with our child, Children's Bridge continued with their great support. After welcoming us back, and following up with us, they made sure that we were settled down well, and as was typical of their attitude throughout our whole adoption experience, were very patience and understanding in answering any questions that we had.

Adoption can be a daunting and emotional journey, and you want a sure pair of hands to guide you through it. There is no surer pair than that of Children's Bridge, and we wholeheartedly recommend them.

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USA Florida

Welcome home to Isa, born in Florida USA, daughter of Gerry and Ella.

WC China

Welcome home to Chloe, Jiang Wang (Hunan Province), daughter of Robert and Amy of Toronto, Ontario



Welcome

Welcome home to Jiana, Jia Na (Jiangsu Province), daughter of Gord and Nancy of Mississauga, Ontario

Welcome home to Lily, Mei Shuang (Guangxi Province), daughter of Grant and Tracy of Orillia, Ontario

Petition for Adoption/Citizenship Change

Hello,

Please consider signing the petition at the link below that one adoptive family had sponsor by their MP. This would request a change to the citizenship act to ensure that our children are not victims of discrimination and can pass on their citizenship to their children even if born outside of Canada. You can also send a letter to your MP to raise awareness about the petition and ensure support from the caucus.

An example of the letter is below.

[MPsAdoptionReformFormLtrFed2016.doc](#)

[MPsAdoptionReformFormLtrFed2016.docx](#)

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THE PETITION:

We need 500 signatures online in order for this to be a recognized petition by The House of Commons. Once we have 500 signatures and the petition time closes, the government has 45 days to give an official response. That being said we may get support before that. Our MP, Nathaniel Erskine-Smith who has sponsored this petition, is very keen to represent our shared concerns within the caucus.

So please share widely with your family, friends, adoption groups and agencies.

Anyone in Canada can sign as long as they are a resident and have their own email. Even those who are under 18 can sign! The link is below.

<https://petitions.parl.gc.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-119>

THE FORM LETTER:

Below you will find the link to the letter Graeme and I have written to our MP.

[MPsAdoptionReformFormLtrFed2016.doc](#)

[MPsAdoptionReformFormLtrFed2016.docx](#)

You just have to **replace your MP's name at the top** and **add your own signature/address at the bottom.**

You can replace the opening paragraph and the end paragraph of the letter to share your own story and add any personal thoughts.

HOWEVER

******please keep the three middle paragraphs** as this is our "ask" and it is also in keeping with the wording of our petition.

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PETITION FOR ADOPTION/CITIZENSHIP CHANGE...

THEN WHAT?

Please send the letter to your MP. You can email it. **But please forward us a copy.** Our MP has asked that we collect as many letters as possible so he can make a case to the caucus for us. You can find your MP's email here: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>

And if you have family members who are also willing to submit this form letter too - then that would rock! There has to be some Grannies and Grampies and Aunts and Uncles who will support us.

If you have any ideas on how we can promote this campaign - jump in!

****Although** we have an MP sponsoring this issue it is crucial for us to get your MP's to bring it up as well - that's how we get them to pay attention. Let us know what responses you get and if your MP is also willing to advocate on our behalf. We will keep you posted with any news from our end.

A SPECIAL NOTE:

*Thank you kindly for your support on this issue. We understand that we have a diverse community of adoptive families. This campaign will remain **non-partisan**. While we do have a Liberal MP as a sponsor, it is our understanding that the NDP are very supportive and many MP's in the Conservative Party are too! Apparently this piece of legislation got caught up in the mix when the citizenship act was being updated.*

So in that spirit we move ahead and collectively we can make Canada a better and more equal place for all of our kids!

Kind Regards,

Kat and Graeme



Happy New Year, Gong Hey Fat Choy.

Hi my name is James. This is my first year in Canada to celebrate Chinese New Year with my parents.

One week before the New Year, Daddy said to start the celebration we need to decorate the house. I helped Daddy to hang some lanterns around. Daddy said we would also need some Chun Lian (red and gold banners) to stick on the wall. We took a trip to a Chinese mall. There are many lovely monkey symbols hanging from the ceilings. Daddy said it is because it is the year of monkey. Daddy let me pick the decorations for my own rooms. Mommy and Daddy also brought many food, snacks and fruit. They said those are the lucky food and they all have special meanings for good luck.

On the New Year's Eve, Mommy let me put on a traditional Chinese silk cloth. It is so pretty. I cannot wait to show it to my friends at school. We had a huge dinner that night. Some of them are very yummy. I love dumplings, rice and those sweet snacks. On the new year's day, I got to wear the nice suit again. We ate the sticky rice ball together. It is very sweet and I love it. Daddy said it symbols forever family (tuan yuan). I also received red envelops from Daddy and grandma. They said it is called *Hong Pao* in Chinese. It had some colour paper and chocolates inside. I love the chocolates but don't know what to do with the colour paper (James pulled out the money and chocolate. He had a look at the money and decided it is no fun and returned back to us). In the afternoon, we went to China town to watch lion dancing. The lions can jump really high. At the end of the show I received another red envelop from the God of Fortune.



Children of Trauma: What Educators Need to Know

Very helpful document published by the
National Council for Adoption (USA).

There are several categories of events that frequently act as triggers for children with histories of trauma. Understanding these triggers will make it easier to identify causes and predict behaviors, and will often lead to a more constructive response.

Remember that there are two goals: to prevent acting out and to teach needed skills.

Emotional self-regulation is one early developmental task that is often compromised by early trauma.

Schools can incorporate techniques into daily routines that help all students manage their own stress, without singling out individual children.

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Children of Trauma: What Educators Need to Know

BY KATHLEEN BENCKENDORF

Let me introduce you to some students.

Caroline is quiet and withdrawn. She does not make friends easily. She does not volunteer to participate in class, and she shows little motivation to achieve good grades despite obvious intelligence. Her emotions seem to have little variation, no real highs or lows, as if she is incapable of understanding or experiencing more than a few basic, superficial emotions. Nor does she seem to appreciate or understand emotions in others. She often seems frozen, and she does not like to try new things.

Ben is popular. Everyone is his friend; even teachers and administrators like him, although his grades are atrocious. He always promises to do better. On any given day, he may demonstrate understanding of a lesson, only to have that understanding completely evaporate by the next day. He frequently daydreams or stares out the classroom window when he should be working on an assignment or listening to the teacher. His teachers are convinced that if he would just focus on school and try harder, he would be successful in school.

Darryl had trouble staying in his seat in the earlier grades; now he is often fidgety. He is easily distracted, particularly by activity or conversation around him. His work is erratic and he frequently argues with teachers. Some days he seems interested and his work is satisfactory, but like Ben,

EDITOR'S NOTE: Many adopted children experience trauma in various forms prior to their adoptions, and adoptive parents, foster parents, and other caregivers might need additional support and guidance when advocating for their children's educational needs with teachers and school administrators. This article was written as a resource for parents to share with educators, to help them better understand, connect with, and assist children that have been victims of trauma.

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You can find the pdf here:

http://aap.uchc.edu/documents/NCFA_ADOPTION_ADVOCATE_NO63.pdf