



JANE BROWN'S ADOPTION PLAYSHOPS 2013



Presented by FCC Toronto

website: janebrowntoronto.weebly.com



Friday Night AdoptShop 1 • Sept. 27th at 6:30 pm (13 - 16 years)
Saturday AM Playshop A • Sept. 28th at 9:00 am (5 - 6 years)
Saturday PM AdoptShop 2 • Sept. 28th at 1:00 pm (11 - 12 years)
Saturday Night Parent Session • Sept. 28th at 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Sunday AM Playshop B • Sept. 29th at 9:00 am (7 - 8 years)
Sunday PM Playshop C • Sept. 29th at 1:30 pm (9 - 10 years)

EVENING PARENT SESSION

"Birth Parents: Searches - Issues - Support"
including a Question & Answer Session
with Jane Brown

The focus of Jane's talk for this year is on birth parent searches: a discussion of whether this is possible, when this should be considered and how to help you and your child navigate the emotions of finding, or more likely, not finding, a birth parent. There will also be a Q&A session at the end where a number of topics related to adoption can be addressed. **Note that the Parent Session is an adult only event.** Childcare is available on site.

THE CHILDREN'S PLAYSHOPS

Jane designed the Playshops to give children an opportunity to explore their ideas about their adoption and to interact with their peers. The Playshops are relevant to all adopted children and Jane uses multi-sensory games and props to encourage the children to discuss their feelings about being adopted. She helps children understand that the questions and thoughts they have about adoption are normal and help them acquire skills they can transfer to settings with all of their peers. Playshops B & C will benefit from the presence of a birthmother to help the older children identify with the third member of the adoption triad. Each Playshop is 2 hours in length. Children will participate independently with parents in an adjacent room.

- **Playshop A** is designed for adopted children who, at the time of the Playshop, will be 5 or 6 years of age.

- **Playshop B** is designed for adopted children who, at the time of the Playshop, will be 7 or 8 years of age.
- **Playshop C** is designed for adopted children who, at the time of the Playshop, will be 9 or 10 years of age.

THE PRE-TEEN & TEEN ADOPTSHOPS:

The session that the teens and pre-teens attend is now called AdoptShop; the format of the AdoptShop is a bit different too. It's a longer session because it starts off as a pizza party. This year's AdoptShops will also benefit from the presence of a birthmother. Each AdoptShop is 2.5 hours in length.

- **AdoptShop 1** is designed for adopted teens who, at the time of the AdoptShop, will be between the ages of 13 and 16.
- **AdoptShop 2** is designed for adopted pre-teens who, at the time of the AdoptShop, will be 11 or 12 years of age.

The MAXIMUM enrollment per Adoptshop/Playshop session is 25 CHILDREN.

PARENT DEBRIEF:

For approximately 1 hour following each Playshop and AdoptShop, Jane will debrief the parents to advise them about the discussions and issues that arose during the session. During this debriefing period, the Playshop or AdoptShop participants will be supervised in an adjacent room.

Jane A. Brown M.S.W.

Jane is a social worker and educator with years of experience working with children. She is both a mother (of eight) and an adoptive parent (five of her children are internationally adopted from Korea, China and Hong Kong) and a grandmother. A well known speaker on adoption matters, Jane is a member of the editorial board of Adoptive Families magazine. Jane brings her professional knowledge and first hand experience to the challenges faced by both adoptive parents and children.

Holiday Inn Select Mississauga

2565 Argentia Rd.
Mississauga, ON
905-542-2121
www.hiselect.com

The hotel is offering a special group rate of \$89.00 +HST per night for a standard room with one king bed and \$109.00 +HST per night for a suite with two queen beds & pull out sofa bed. Mention "FCC Toronto" when you phone to book your rooms.



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REGISTRATION FORM

ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY!

REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED PRIOR TO MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2013. Confirmation of session will be made by email only. For further information please contact Marion Maye at marionmaye@rogers.com (preferred) or phone at 519-938-8500.

PLEASE NOTE: In an attempt to be fair to all involved we have ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY and will be unable to process any registration forms that are postmarked prior to June 24, 2013. So have your registration ready, mark your calendar and drop it in the mail on June 24. We will be processing registrations on a strictly first come, first served basis. If the session(s) you are registering for are full, you will be advised and placed on the waiting list.

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Child's Name	DOB	Birth Country	M/F	Previous Year(s) Attended (circle applicable)					
_____	_____	_____	_____	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
_____	_____	_____	_____	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
_____	_____	_____	_____	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012

FOR PLAYSHOPS B PLEASE SELECT YOUR 1ST AND 2ND PREFERENCE: (We will do our best to accommodate your primary preference, however due to the 25 maximum participants per playshop you should be prepared to attend your secondary preference.)

ADOPTSHOP / PLAYSHOP REQUESTED

Number Attending

- ☐ AdoptShop 1 (ages 13 - 16)..... Friday, September 27 at 7pm _____ x \$100.00 = _____
- ☐ Playshop A (ages 5 - 6) Saturday, September 28 at 9am _____ x \$100.00 = _____
- ☐ AdoptShop 2 (ages 11 - 12) Saturday, September 28 at 1pm _____ x \$100.00 = _____
- ☐ Parent Session Saturday, September 28 at 7pm _____ x \$30.00 = _____
- ☐ Playshop B (ages 7 - 8) Sunday, September 29 at 9am _____ x \$100.00 = _____
- ☐ Playshop C (ages 9 - 10) Sunday, September 29 at 1:30pm _____ x \$100.00 = _____

SPECIAL PLAYSHOP/ADOPTSHOP/PARENT SESSION BUNDLED DISCOUNT PRICE:

- ☐ One Playshop/AdoptShop (any age) plus One Parent Session (indicate the Playshop/AdoptShop above)..... _____ x \$120.00 = _____

Please note that we are unable to give refunds if you withdraw from either a Playshop/AdoptShop or the Parent Session after September 16, 2013 for ANY reason.

TOTAL =

CHILDCARE: Are you interested in child care for the Parent Session?

☐ Yes ☐ No (see FAQs for more information on this)

VOLUNTEERS: Can you volunteer during the weekend?

☐ Yes ☐ No (see FAQs for more information on this)

Send completed form and a cheque (payable to FCC Toronto) **POSTMARKED NO EARLIER THAN JUNE 24**
to: Marion Maye, 29 Hawthorne Road, Orangeville, ON, L9V 1A2



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How does the registration process work?

*In an attempt to be fair to all involved we have **ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY** starting on the registration date. Therefore, we will be unable to process any registration forms that are postmarked prior to Monday, June 24, 2013. So have your registration ready, mark your calendar and **drop it in the mail on June 24**. We will be processing on a strictly **first come, first served** basis, **based on the postmark on your registration form**. If the session you are registering for is full, you will be advised by email. We will work with you to suggest an alternative Playshop or AdoptShop or you can be placed on a waitlist.*

Confirmation of session will be made by email only so please make sure you have a working email address and that it is an email address that you will be able to access during the summer. We know some families go away during the summer; however, we need to be able to contact you to confirm the session or for clarification regarding your registration. We hope (but can't promise) that we will be able to advise you of your tentative placement in early July. For further information please contact Marion Maye at marionmaye@rogers.com

Q. Doesn't that favour families that live closer to the GTA?

No!! The way it works is that when you drop it in the mail on June 24 it will be postmark stamped at the Post Office. This will indicate the time and date it was received. It is these marks we use to determine the order of registration. It actually has no bearing on when the Registrar receives the mail – it could be within 1-2 days for someone close by or a week or more for someone farther away. It is the postmark date alone that matters.

*Please note, however, that **any registrations postmarked PRIOR to June 24 will be not be accepted and you will not be registered**. This is to ensure that everyone gets a fair chance to register for the Playshops. If you are unsure of when your mail is picked up, confirm ahead of time or take it directly to your local post office.*

Q. What do the children do in AdoptShop?

The session that the teens and pre-teens attend is now called AdoptShop. The name change helps the children recognize that they are growing up and are recognized as the "older kids". The format of the AdoptShop is a bit different too. It's a longer session because it starts off as a pizza party (so no need to eat before attending!). We supply the pizza but we ask that everyone bring along a small snack or dessert to share. Jane has used this format in other cities and has found that the pizza is a great way for everyone to chat with one another in a more informal setting, to help everyone get comfortable with each other and to have some fun before they get to work with the session.

Q. Can I request a specific Playshop?

The Playshops work best when the children are all close to the same age. We will make every effort to ensure that your child is slotted into the Playshop or AdoptShop closest to your child's age at the time of the Playshops. We realize that this might mean that some children may have their friends in different age groups, but Jane feels that the Playshops/AdoptShops are more focused by having the age groupings limited to a smaller range. This will improve the sessions, plus this is great opportunity to make new friends!

Q. If our plans change or something unexpected comes up, can I get a refund?

Please note that we are unable to give refunds if you withdraw from either a Playshop/AdoptShop or the Parent session after Monday, September 16, 2013 for ANY reason.

Q. Can I stay with my child during the Playshop? Do I have to stay nearby/remain in the hotel during the Playshop?

*Parents do not remain in the Playshop with the children. Please keep this in mind when deciding whether you think your child is ready to attend a Playshop. There is time at the beginning of each Playshop for children to transition from the parents into the Playshop but in order to be fair to all Playshop participants, parents cannot remain in the Playshop beyond this transition time. However, it is essential that **ALL parents remain in the adjoining room set out for them during the time their child is in the Playshop.** This is to ensure that should your child need you for any reason you are close at hand. The facilitators **CANNOT and WILL NOT** come looking for you.*

Q. My child is too young to attend the Playshops – will they continue to be offered in the future?

Yes, we hope to be able to continue to offer the Playshops for as long as there are families who want to attend. The continued operation of the Jane Brown Playshops is done on a purely non-profit, volunteer basis. There is a volunteer committee who organizes this event each year. Since we have no organization backing us up financially, we must therefore be self-sufficient. We price the Playshops to break even financially. If we make any “profit”, we retain it to offset Playshop expenses for the following year. We also have been successful at keeping our hotel and other fixed expenses as low as possible and we only increase our prices as needed, in order to offset any increase in our anticipated costs. The funds are monitored and managed by the FCC Toronto treasurer.

The best way that you can ensure that these Playshops remain available for years to come is to support them by attending the Parent Session or by volunteering – either with the organizing committee or on the actual weekend – we are always in need of more volunteers. The Parent Session is a wonderful way to connect with the other parents (and parents-in-waiting) and the information Jane has to offer will be immensely valuable for years to come. You can also help us increase attendance by forwarding the registration form to other families who might be interested in attending.

Q. Will there be child care offered during the Saturday night Parent Session?

Yes, childcare is being offered for the Saturday night Parent Seminar. The children will be supervised in a room on the same floor as the Parent session. Childcare will cost approximately \$10 per child for the evening, payable on that evening when you register your child. Marking “yes” on the registration form simply helps us to determine how many child care volunteers we are likely to need. You will be contacted by email about 2 weeks prior to the Playshops for confirmation. If you have any questions about the childcare, please contact Cindy Boates at cboates@yahoo.com

Q. I have been to a previous Parent Session – is there any reason to go again?

Although the main thrust of Jane’s message is similar each year, we change the exact topics of discussion around from year to year so there will always be something new to learn. Plus, the question and answer session is always unpredictable and interesting.

As to the importance of the Parent Session in regards to the Playshop/AdoptShop itself, here is what Jane has to say on that matter:

“We, as parents, tend to get less involved in school and other child-related organizations as our children get older. As they grow and mature, we tend to pull back from overseeing what they do. This partly explains why parents’ involvement in FCC and other adoption support organizations tends to taper off. As a result, parents receive less and less ongoing educational information through adoption workshops or other seminars. This is not a wise idea, however, as our children’s issues grow more, not less, complicated as they get older. Parents describe their children as “fine” through the mid-to-late elementary school years, and many continue to do so through the middle school years. For many, however, issues that have been suppressed under the surface during the elementary years tend to come to the surface – often, seemingly overnight – and the teen years can get very turbulent in lots of families. Parents who continue to attend adoption seminars and continue to listen to and talk with other families and adoption professionals continue to develop the specialized communication skills and other parenting skills that are specific to parenting adopted kids at various ages and stages of development. Parents who think everything is “fine” because their child looks to be happy, involved in lots of school-related and interest-related activities, and never brings up adoption or race won’t choose to attend adoption-related educational workshops. That is the best time, however, for parents to be preparing themselves for challenges that may still lie ahead – changes in the way their child relates to them or to friends or extended family or which might impact on your child’s life choices.”

Q. How can I help out on the Playshop weekend?

We need volunteers to be at the registration tables for the Playshops as well as for the Parent Session. We also need volunteers to help organize and supervise the crafts for the children to keep them busy while the parents are with Jane for the parent debrief after the Playshops. If you think you would be able to help out, even for only an hour or two, or if you would like to help organize next year's Playshops, please contact Cindy Boates at cboates@yahoo.com.

Q. Can my child volunteer during the Playshops?

In each of the Playshops, we have adult adoptees (and sometimes a birth mother) assisting Jane. We also have young adoptees assisting Jane. So if your child is old enough to attend one of the AdoptShops (ages 11 and up), he or she may be able to volunteer as one of Jane's helpers in one of the Playshops A, B or C (but not in a Playshop that a sibling would be participating in). Also, Playshop C attendees could assist in Playshop A (as long as they don't have a sibling in Playshop A). For children who are high school age, we sign off for their needed volunteer hours. If your child would be interested in being a young adoptee helper in a Playshop, contact Cindy Boates at cboates@yahoo.com

Q. Why are there so many different Playshops this year?

In prior years, we have had more than one session for some of the Playshops. We had concentrations of children at certain ages and we needed more than one session to accommodate the larger numbers of children. As our children are getting older, we now have a wider range of ages to accommodate. Plus, again this year we are splitting the AdoptShop into two age groupings to better address tween versus teen issues since the challenges of a 15 year old are very different than the challenges of an 11 year old!