

## **Course Outline/Bibliography**

### **Adopting a Child That May Have Been Sexually Abused (CE)**

- Often prospective parents are in a situation where they don't know for sure, but they have suspicions that the child they have been matched with through foster care adoption or referred through international adoption have experienced sexual abuse.
- What constitutes sexual abuse? Intercourse? touching?
- What type of children are most vulnerable? In what situations are children most vulnerable?
- Does sexual abuse cause a different type of psychological damage than other types of abuse?
- We know that when adopting from foster care we may not know about a history of sexual abuse. What factors should we look for in a child's history if no sexual abuse has been disclosed. What are the warning signs in information you receive about a child before adoption that might indicate that a child has been abused sexually.
- What type of behaviors are common in children that have been sexually abused.
- What factors should we look for in a child's history if no sexual abuse has been disclosed.
- Do parents often misunderstand the range of normal healthy sexual exploration and curiosity expressed by normally developing children?
- A common perception is that most children who have been abused will grow up to become abusers— especially boys. Is this true?
- Why do children often have mixed emotions about the abuse and their abusers?
- What factors impact how much a child who has been sexually abused will be affected?

- One of the biggest concerns for prospective adoptive parents is the possibility that they will be endangering children already in their home if they bring in a child that is acting out sexually and this translates often to being afraid to bring in any child with a history of sexual abuse.
- What type of therapies work for these kids?
- How to find a therapist to help your child and help your family with raising this child?
- What is the prognosis for living a mentally and sexually healthy life?
- How to set up safeguards and protections for the children already in your home?

Gil, E., & Shaw, J. Working with Children with Sexual Behavior Problems. New York: Guilford Press, 2014.

Gil, E., & Shaw, J. Assessment of Sexual Behavior Problems in Children: An Integrative and Play-Based Approach to Assessment. MI: Self Esteem Shop, 2012.

Parenting a Child Who Has Been Sexually Abused: A Guide for Foster and Adoptive Parents. **Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2013.**

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f-abused/>

Siegel, Dan, & Hartzell, Mary. Parenting from the Inside Out: How a Deeper Self-Understanding Can Help You Raise Children Who Thrive. TarcherPerigee, 2013.

Lozier, Carol. The Adoptive & Foster Parent Guide: How to Heal Your Child's Trauma and Loss. Createspace, 2012.

Johnston, Patricia Irwin. Adopting: Sound Choices, Strong Families. Perspectives Press, 2008.

Keck, Gregory, & Kupecky, Regina. Parenting the Hurt Child: Helping Adoptive Families Heal and Grow. NavPress, 2009.