

Sound Choices = Strong Families



An Adoption and Fostering Conference
with

Patricia Irwin Johnston

NOVEMBER 18 & 19, 2011

TCU Place 22nd Street East Saskatoon

Contact ASCS to Register Toll Free: 1.866.869.2727

BE PREPARED FOR A CONFERENCE LIKE NO OTHER!

Patricia Irwin Johnston is a renowned award winning author of numerous books about adoption, fostering and infertility including her most recent title, Adopting, Sound Choices, Strong Families. She is a multifaceted educator who is able to transcend all aspects of adoption as it relates to parents and professionals alike.

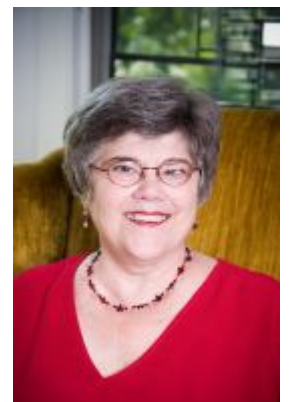
Patricia is a dynamic presenter who will shed light on some of the most difficult topics around adoptive and foster parenting. She will discuss topics relevant to adoptive parents just starting their journey in adoption, adoptive and foster parents experiencing the demands of parenting, and professionals working with families who have children who are adopted or fostered. Don't miss this one - time opportunity! Patricia will be retiring following her Canadian tour and we are so fortunate to have her come to Saskatchewan.

Patricia will talk about being "a little bit pregnant" by adoption and the preparation couples need psychologically, physically, financially, and more. She will cover what kids think about adoption, social workers and "the birds and the bees". You will learn about maintaining your relationships while growing as a family. Patricia will share her thirty years of experience as an adoption educator by engaging in discussion about developmental issues, embracing differences, attachment, entitlement, extended family and the list goes on!

For professionals: The Family Challenged Client in the 21st century will encompass a variety of topics dealing with today's changing issues with a new generation of clients.

Books by Patricia Irwin Johnston

**Adopting - Sound Choices, Strong Families *Adopting After Infertility *Adoption is a Family Affair! What Friends and Relatives Must Know *Understanding Infertility: Insights for Family and Friend *Perspectives on a Grafted Tree: Thoughts for those Touched by Adoption. This is just a small sample of some of Pat's work as an adoption professional!*



CONFERENCE TRADE SHOW REGISTRATION

November 18 & 19, 2011 TCU Place 22nd Street East, Saskatoon SK

Agency or Organization _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email _____

\$150.00 CDN *Non profit organization

Non-profit registration # _____

\$200.00 CDN *Business or for profit organization

Please provide names of those attending to the display table for your organization

1) Name: _____

2) Name: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: There is a maximum of **two people** allowed per display table. Display tables are located inside the conference seating area and must remain set up until the end of the Sound Choices = Strong Families Conference, 5:00pm on November 19th, 2011.

IMPORTANT! SET-UP will take place at **TCU Place,**
22nd Street East, Saskatoon
November 18th between 10:00 am and 11:30 am

Please send Trade Show registration along with payment by cheque to:
(we cannot accept Mastercard or Visa payment)

Adoption Support Centre of Saskatchewan Inc
233 4th Avenue South, Saskatoon SK. S7K 1N1

Phone: 306 - 665 - 7272 Fax: 306 - 665 - 7274
Toll Free: 1 - 866 - 869 - 2727(ASCS)
Email: resources@adoptionsask.org

Office Use Only

Date Received: _____

Trade Show Amount Paid: _____

Cheque #/Date: _____

Receipt #/Date Issued: _____

Sound Choices = Strong Families

An Adoption and Fostering Conference *with* Patricia Irwin Johnston

November 18 & 19 2011

TCU Place 22nd Street East, Saskatoon

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, November 18th, 2011

Who should attend?

Patricia has designed this half day conference **primarily for professionals**. The information provided in this session will be of interest to social workers, social work students, psychologists, counsellors, independent practitioners and others working in adoption and foster care.

10:00 am - 1:00 pm **Conference Registration** *Free copy of **Adopting: Sound Choices, Strong Families** included with every conference registration!

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The Family Challenged Client in the 21st Century - While there have always been "preferential adopters" or "families by design" who add to their family built by birth by adopting or fostering, the majority of those who consider adopting or fostering come to this decision through some version of being challenged in building a family "traditionally," and their routes are changing. Some may be dealing with infertility; others face genetic issues; some are single; others are gay or lesbian. What's more, parents are getting older than they were a generation ago, and the late Baby Boomers, GenX (and soon Millennials) would-be parents who are primary clients have always moved in a fast-paced world. They are goal oriented and in a hurry; they multi-task. They can be impatient and demanding, rather than acquiescent and they can be resistant to parenting education but, when it is required, want it in bytes rather than books.

As professionals our challenge in working with them on behalf of the children who are our primary clients is to find ways to slow themselves down, to become child centered, to embrace the need for information in the parenting journey. Encompassing today's changing issues with a new generation of clients Pat offers insights into what makes each generation so different with which to work, provides tools for engaging them, and presents materials professionals can use to help each client make his or her best decisions. Pat joins us to offer knowledge and tools for achieving these goals!

7:00 pm - 8:00pm **Early Registration for November 19th Conference Attendees**
*Free copy of **Adopting: Sound Choices, Strong Families** included with every conference registration!

Saturday, November 19th, 2011

Who should attend?

The topics for this day are designed **primarily for adoptive and foster parents**. However, professionals are encouraged to attend as well as they will gather some valuable insights into challenges important to adoptive and foster parents. There will be something for everyone, no matter where you are on the path to building your family or working with those who are!

7:00 am - 8:15 am **Conference Registration** *Free copy of **Adopting: Sound Choices, Strong Families** included with every conference registration!

8:15 am - 8:30 am **Introduction**

8:30 am - 10:00 am

"Expecting" by Adoption - It is no secret that there are complexities that are unique to families who are planning to raise children through adoption! While couples, singles or gay and lesbian partners who are in the midst of adopting are not biologically pregnant, they will potentially experience a psychological pregnancy that lasts for an uncertain period of time. Through the course of the adoption process adoptive parents may encounter a series of challenges that can affect them emotionally, psychologically, financially, physically and much more. Pat will explore these issues and offer ways to "Confront the Dragons"!

10:00 am - 10:30 am **Break**

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Growing as a Family - In this session Pat will cover some of the "big" issues important to all adoptive parents. This session will introduce the Shared Fate Theory of David Kirk and the Entitlement Theory of Jerome Smith. The importance of healthy attachment is a well-known topic in adoption and fostering. How does entitlement impact attachment relationships between parents and children? How do families deal with the cultural component in developing entitlement? Building a sense of entitlement as a "real" family between parent and child means acknowledging your motivations for adopting, coming to understand and embrace the differences and similarities between parenting by birth, by adoption and by fostering, learning to cope with society's (and extended family members') image of adoption as second-best family building and finding ways to create effective channels of communication between parent and child.



12:00 pm - 1:30 pm **Lunch On Your Own** - Explore the amazing diversity of Saskatoon's downtown dining or bring your lunch and sightsee along the riverbank while taking in the "City of Bridges" breathtaking view.

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Birds, Bees, Cabbage Patches and Social Workers - What Are The Kids Thinking? - Pat will start the afternoon by covering a variety of sensitive issues that adoptive parents commonly encounter and discuss understanding and navigating these delicate and sometimes awkward topics. You will explore children's developmental issues in adoption from toddlerhood to teen: how children's thinking about adoption and about how family connections grows, is tested, and matures over time and how parents can help them with that growth. Just what do children--both adopted and non-adopted--understand about adoption and when? Also included in this session is, "sex education and the adoption-built family". What do kids think about how babies and families are made? Is sex education different for adoptees? How does a family explain reproduction to a child conceived out of an unplanned pregnancy in self-esteem enhancing ways? How do we explain infertility and when? How do we cope with our children's awakening sexuality? This is big stuff you won't want to miss!

3:30 pm - 3:45 pm **Break**

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

Maintaining a Partnership While Raising a Family - Pat will wrap up the day by concluding where the morning began, with parents who are navigating all of the complexities of a journey in adoption. The focus of this session is to provide some insight into how to maintain and sustain a relationship during the roller coaster ride of raising a family.

7:00 pm - 9:30pm

Wine and H'orderves Social Evening and ASCS Annual General Meeting

Complete the day with a relaxing evening of socializing and entertainment in the beautiful TCU Place Gallery Suites. Join us while we give you an overview of another fantastic year at the Adoption Support Centre of Saskatchewan during the Annual General Meeting. In addition, we will be presenting the first ASCS Scholarships which will be followed by exciting local entertainment. Enjoy the fabulous h'orderves and optional cash bar. **Door prize for the AGM will be an evening out for two with a gift certificate to John's Prime Rib and Steak House and two tickets to a Persephone Theatre Performance.** Don't miss it!

ASCS WELCOMES PATRICIA IRWIN JOHNSTON...



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Pat is the publisher at *Perspectives Press, Inc: The Infertility and Adoption Publisher*, which focuses exclusively on infertility and adoption issues. In addition, Pat is the author of numerous articles and several books, including the newest (2008) *Adopting: Sound Choices, Strong Families* (named the gold medalist in the 2009 Benjamin Franklin Awards in the field of self-help), *Adoption Is a Family Affair!: What Relatives and Friends Must Know*, *Understanding Infertility: Insights for Families and Friends*, *Taking Charge of Infertility*, which was a silver medalist in the 1995 Benjamin Franklin Awards Psychology division, *Adopting after Infertility*, which was a silver-medalist for 1993's Benjamin Franklin Awards Parenting/Family Issues division, and *Launching A Baby's Adoption: Practical Strategies For Parents And Practitioners*. For six years she wrote the regularly appearing "Growing Up Adopted: 0-2" column in *Adoptive Families* magazine. For four years she was the book review editor for the professional journal *Adoption Quarterly*.

Reactions from parents and professionals who have attended Pat Johnston's workshops...

"Pat is a gifted trainer. As a professional I've not had such a valuable in-service opportunity on my home turf before!"... "Thank you for your life-changing seminar and book (we read it aloud all the way home in the car and couldn't wait for Monday to start our plan!)"... "The best speaker I've ever listened to"..." Quickly establishes rapport with her audience. Her sense of humour and personal anecdotes are very much appreciated"..." I wish I could have gotten my doctor and his staff here. They THINK they understand, but they don't get it really! How can we get doctors and nurses here next time?"..." Pat made us feel very empowered!"..." She was superb in her content and delivery... We learned some very valuable info. It got us talking about our feelings. Her suggestions on identifying and prioritizing losses was especially helpful and exactly what we needed to hear"..." The thing hardly anyone ever talks about is what parenting issues will come up after infertility. This practical information really soothed my husband's fears. "She's well organized and seems to be so happy about speaking that you feel so comfortable"..." She makes you feel like her friend"



The Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon is the host hotel for the Strong Choices Sound Families Conference. The standard rate for the reserved block of rooms is \$159.00. The cut-off to book rooms at this price is October 20th, 2011. Please contact the Sheraton at **Phone:** (306) 652-6770 or **Toll-Free:** 1-800-325-3535. Please reference the Adoption Support Centre of Saskatchewan when booking.