



Openness in Adoption: *Making lifelong decisions about openness for your adopted child*

Adopted children, like all children, need to know who they are and where they came from. At the same time it is the role of adoptive parents to provide safety and protection to their children, especially when they may have had significantly traumatic pasts. This training will offer ways to balance a child's need to connect with their birth family and the need for safety. The trainer will review things to consider when making these lifelong decisions for (and with) your child as well as strategies to help make openness work. The training will offer a summary of common challenges and roadblocks with openness in child welfare adoptions. The goal is that participants will gain tools and ideas to provide a connection to their child's roots that work with their family system.

Presenter: Nicole Russell, MSW, ORPARC Family Support Specialist
Nicole is a Family Support Specialist with Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center. She graduated in 2009 with her Master in Social Work from Portland State University. She is also the recipient of the NASW 2009 Community-Based Practice Award. She has worked with children, youth, and families in various capacities. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she worked within a school-based mental health program, providing support in behavior supported classrooms within elementary schools.

When: *Date to be determined*

Time: *Time to be determined*

Where: *Site to be determined*

**Register by contacting ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367
or email orparc@nwresource.org**

ORPARC trainings are free-of-charge to DHS/state adoptive, foster and assisted guardianship families, and DHS/SNAC adoption professionals. Others may attend trainings for minimal charge and/or on a space available basis. Reimbursement for childcare and travel expense are offered to ORPARC eligible families as funds allow; please request childcare and travel reimbursement upon registration. Trainings are held in accessible locations. Auxiliary aids and alternative forms of written materials are available to persons with disabilities. Foreign language interpretation is available upon request. Request these services two weeks in advance.