

Adoption: A Hidden Diversity is an interactive seminar available to school faculties and counseling staff. Presented by Sunny Ridge Family Center, the seminar is available at your school location or at another location of your choice.

Adoption: A Hidden Diversity brings knowledge of adoption issues to school communities in your area. Schools play a major role in the lives of children and are a key factor in shaping a child's self concept, their peer group experiences, their views of diversity, and their understanding of the people around them.

With over 30 years of adoption experience, Sunny Ridge Family Center can help school communities become more sensitive to adoption-related issues, and help normalize adoption for all children as part of a growing global citizenship.

The Post Adoption Services at Sunny Ridge
Serving individuals, families, and the community—by providing adoption-competent counseling, education and support.



Since 1979, Sunny Ridge Family Center has served children and built families through adoption. Sunny Ridge has placed over 3,000 children from 46 countries into loving families. A caring team of experienced professionals help guide families along the journey of adoption. Sunny Ridge provides comprehensive adoption services, including home studies and post adoption services.

Sunny Ridge is an Illinois Licensed Child Welfare Agency, License #019976.

Sunny Ridge Family Center
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A Seminar for School Educators and Counselors



ADOPTION: A HIDDEN DIVERSITY

Sunny Ridge Family Center



Dear Educator:

For those of us fortunate enough to work in the field of adoption, no greater joy exists than knowing an adopted child is happy, healthy, and developing with a positive self-image.



Adoption professionals know the journey of adoption continues for a child long after placement into a family. He or she must navigate all of the normal lessons of childhood, growing along side his or her peers, but with an additional layer of issues as an adopted person. And for those of us not touched by adoption, our perspectives may be skewed by our own experiences, the media, or by outdated paradigms concerning adoption.

Adoption: A Hidden Diversity supports school communities by providing relevant information about today's adopted child and adoptive family. Educators and counselors can use the information and resources provided to gain insights on the types of experiences an adopted child may face, heighten sensitivities for talking about adoption in the classroom, and most importantly, better support the adoptive child and adoptive family.

I urge you to schedule a seminar for your school community today.

Pam Shepard, MSW, LCSW
Supervisor of Parent Training and Adoption
Counseling Services
Sunny Ridge Family Center

To schedule *Adoption: A Hidden Diversity*, visit: www.sunnyridge.org/seminar

Adoption: A Hidden Diversity

Topics include:

- An overview of adoption facts
- What adoption professionals have learned about today's adopted child
- School-related issues that adopted children and adoptive families face
- How adopted children and their parents benefit when teachers, administrators, and classmates are sensitive to adoption issues (and how a school can make it happen!)
- How using positive adoption language in the classroom can help affirm adopted children and educate students
- Resources for books relating to adoption
- Materials for National Adoption month (November)
- If applicable, a discussion on foster care and risk factors that can make children in foster care more vulnerable to problems at school.



Adoption: A Hidden Diversity

The seminar fee for **Adoption: A Hidden Diversity** is \$250, and can be customized for large or small group sizes.

When scheduling this seminar for your faculty and staff, ask us about offering a modified presentation for your Parents' Association at no additional charge. We are more than happy to present to your Parents' Association.

We are now scheduling late summer and fall dates for in-service school district, individual schools, and Parent Association presentations. Contact Sunny Ridge to reserve your date today.

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