



R. A. V. E. N. Respite

Newsletter

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Why Our Kids Push Us Away.. Bernadine Janzen, MS, LPC

We give our kids love, kindness and they throw a tantrum. Give them a snack and they let us know it's not enough, the kind they wanted, or they don't like it. As soon as we walk away and attend to something we want or need to do (phone conversation, friend, personal time out, or chore) they fall apart; wailing, whining, demanding our time in any negative way they can muster. When demands are met parents, raising children of trauma, relay that their youth may often sabotage events and activities which they initially begged for. This "push – pull" relationship is confusing and exhausting to "new" parents of this population. To explain why our kids appear to act in ways that "push us away" I will present information in two parts. Bare with me while I set some psychological history for this interesting, and for some parents, upsetting dynamic.

Unconscious envy was first discussed by Melanie Klein at the turn of the 20th century. Primitive envy was later described by Boris in 1991, as "something that is envied which is beyond the hope of acquisition". It is believed this emotion is first developed in the infant/maternal relationship and that it is separate from greed and jealousy. Freud believed envy to begin as the infant's instinctive response to anxiety.... the death instinct....the fear that someone will take the source of life away from them. Therein, the joke of, "I brought you into this world, I can take you out of it" OR the teenager who says, "My mom's going to kill me", takes on a very different perspective when we understand this is an instinctual response.

Likierman speaks of the individual often responding as if they perceived they had been deprived of something. Because the basic instinct is to protect them selves the infant believes they must have the individuals care in protecting them or they will die. So, when we disengage from them they sense we are no longer "there" for them

and they become scared. The triangulation relationship may be another piece of envy or the fear of loses of life or love, which those things are in danger of being taken away by a rival: a person or a thing. Dave Hiles speaks of the real or presumed advantage of a rival; especially in regard to the "love" of the object....this might be the "hate" part of the relationship many parents of attachment challenged children feel. The individual's wish to destroy that which they most desire creating, "love/hate" relationships.

Individuals can have powerful defenses such as devaluing the "good" individual or having rigid ideation of the "good" individual. Immature intolerance to frustration is seen as the "good" individual withholding, or keeping to it self, something that the other wants for them selves. It is thought that envy serves as an adaptive AND defensive function in the brain. The individual may often feel sickened at the sight of enjoyment of or by others and may only feel content when others are miserable. Unresolved primary envy can lead to psychotic symptoms like self-pity and self-destructiveness which they often deal with angrily and outwardly.

Lastly, Hiles also believes that if children do not find healthy adaptation with this relationship patterning in infancy and it is left unresolved, it can destroy the individuals personality for the future, stating, "the ego can implode and destroy itself" with suicide later in life as an expression of that which the infant could not make clear. While this is a terrifying thought for most parents it does explain our children's clear message to us as they reach their teen years, that life may not be worth living. Without the proper guidance well before the teen years to rewire their thinking patterns we can provide them a different belief of their self-worth, self-love and self-confidence. These children who long to belong yet, believe they are only capable of sitting on the sidelines to envy others can be help to have a better life with trained therapist who work with this population of children.

Bernadine Janzen

The Order of Eastern Star, Matanuska Chapter 14, of Palmer, Alaska, accepted RAVEN Respite, a project under Alaska Attachment and Bonding Associates of Wasilla, Alaska, as their 2007 charitable project. RAVEN's mission and goal is to help parents of adopted, foster and kinship children that have been diagnosed with Attachment Disorders.

RAVEN sincerely thanks Eastern Star, and 2007 Worthy Matron of the year, Anna Decker, along with all Eastern Star members who worked hard all year, to be able to present RAVEN with a check in the amount

of \$494.00. Their charitable donation will help keep families healthy



and together.

Left to Right:
Anna Decker, Worthy Eastern Star Matron, Melissa Jessup, RAVEN Developer, and Eleanor Oakley, CEO of Alaska Attachment and Bonding Associates

The Hague Convention Enters Force in the United States

The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption entered into force in the United States on April 1st. Under the Convention, adoptions between Hague Convention party countries may proceed only after the adoptive child's country of origin has verified the child is adoptable, that proper consideration was given to the child's adoption in the country of origin, that intercountry adoption is in the child's best interests, and that the necessary consents to the adoption have been freely given after appropriate counseling. In addition, the country receiving the child must determine that the prospective adoptive parents are eligible and suitable to adopt, and that the adoptive child will be authorized to enter and reside permanently in their country.

Persons wishing to adopt a child who is a resident of another party country must first apply to a designated authority for approval of an intercountry adoption. The Convention requires, in addition, that completed adoptions be recognized in the receiving country unless such recognition would be contrary to the country's public policy, taking the best interests of the child into account. Under the Convention, each party country is required to designate a Central Authority, which is responsible for the oversight of intercountry adoptions and the facilitation of cooperation and communication between the child's country of residence's Central Authority and the Central Authority of the country where potential adoptive parents reside.

The Department of State's Office of Children's Issues is the designated Central Authority for the United States. This Office will be responsible for determining the eligibility and suitability of applicants in intercountry adoption cases and determining the eligibility of a child sought to be adopted by applicants from other Convention party countries. The federal implementing legislation for the Convention, the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, and regulations associated with the Act set the process for accreditation of adoption service providers in the U.S.

For more information on the Hague Convention, please visit the United States Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs website at:

http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/convention/convention_462.html

A list of currently accredited agencies may be found at:

http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/convention/convention_4169.html

Training and Workshops

- o ACRF Training:

Wed. April 23rd: Child Sexual Abuse/teens, 7:00-8:00 PM.

Adopting through the Office of Children's Services:

Day Class: Wed. April 16th from 10:00-1:00.

- o Stone Soup Group

April 22, 6-8 pm Self-Determination/Self-Advocacy (emphasis on summer activities), Presenter – Kathy Fitzgerald, Location – SSG, Anchorage

Links and Resources



Alaska Parent Line:

1-800-643-5437

North American Council on Adoptable Children:

www.nacac.org

Alaska Family & Youth Network:

www.ayfn.org

Alaska Center for Resource Families: www.acrf.org

Cheri Stone:

www.stonesoupgroup.org

Parent Support Phone Line:
907-373-6937

Online parent support group.
visit: http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/RAVEN_RESPITE

Mom2Mom

Share and support another mom while making crafts!
Join in on the FUN !!
Call: 376-0506

Parent Advocate with
ATTACH

MANDT Certified Trainer

Bernie Janzen, M.S. LPC,
has added Podcasts at :
www.tattac.com Here
are a few of the topics
available:

Building Resiliency

Therapeutic Respite Care for
Attachment Disordered Kids

Development of a
Therapeutic Community
Program

Email: bsj@laguna.com.mx

The R.A.V.E.N. Respite
project is sponsored by:
Alaska Attachment and
Bonding Associates

Melissa Jessup, Respite
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If you have any news you'd like
to see in the Newsletter, please
contact Melissa at:
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