



Adoption Expert Q&A Webcast

Transracial Adoption

Beth Hall

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Adoptive Families Expert Webinars

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pact's

point of view

serving adopted children of color

Transracial Adoption

Should We Consider It?
Are We Prepared?

Beth Hall

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**Pact's
Multicultural
Adoption**



BookSource 2013

race



family



adoption



placement

Pact helps children of color in need of adoption find permanent, loving homes. Families of color, in particular African American adoptive parents, are underserved in adoption. We believe same-race adoptions are easier for children; therefore, active recruitment of adoptive parents of color is a principal priority. Research has demonstrated that financial constraints and assumptions about families of color looking to adopt have created barriers to these families accessing adoption placement services. Pact works to make adoption accessible by ensuring that placement services are available to all qualified parents, including low- and middle-income families. Currently over 90% of our placements involve children placed with families where one or more parent is the same race as the child. Our placement program is also available to parents who wish to adopt across racial lines once they have completed our transracial adoption education program: Building Community Across Cultures (BCAC). We are vocal advocates for ethical, honest, anti-racist adoption practices.

education

Adoption doesn't end with placement—it is a lifelong journey. Pact offers ongoing workshops for adoptive parents culminating in our full-day Spring Training each March, focused on issues in adoption and foster care, and our annual Family Camp each July that celebrates, supports and educates adoptive families with children of color. In 2013, almost 100 families, totaling more than 350 children and adults from across the country, took part in this transformative experience.



support

Growing up is never easy—and adding race and adoption or foster care to the equation raises the risk that youth will experience low self-esteem. Young people who are struggling with questions about their identity can be helped by participating in community—building groups with mentors who understand what they're going through. Pact's Teen and Tween Club makes a difference in the lives of adopted youth of color and their non-adopted siblings. In the same way, Pact's ongoing groups for parents and families focus on finding and building supportive communities where difficult questions can be safely explored.

community

Pact's mission is to serve adopted children of color, including those of African, Latino, Asian, Native and multiracial descent. Pact works with families with children who have been adopted domestically and later nationally, privately or through foster care, as infants or as older children. We support and welcome all types of families, including single parents and LGBTQ parents. We work to give all adoptive families the tools they need to respond to a society that does not always support or accept them fully. We welcome all adopted people of color as mentors and collaborators. Adopted adults are the foremost experts on the experience of being an adopted person. We believe adopted people deserve to know their full heritage and should have access to all of their birth history. We also welcome birth parents as collaborators and believe they should be treated respectfully before and after placement. When adopting children of color, parents need to acknowledge the pervasive power of race with honesty and integrity. We know that a colorblind ("love is enough") approach to identity and racism does not work or facilitate the changes that are necessary to creating a just society. Pact works with parents, extended families, and community health fairs to raise awareness about adoption and race.



Pact Family Camp

July 2-7, 2015

www.pactadopt.org



a gathering of adoptive families with children of color with adopted and non-adopted mentors of color

Pact Online Education



We want you to be the best parents you can be! Because of this Pact, An Adoption Alliance has added Webinars to our educational offerings. Every month we host a 90-minute Webinar on the topics of adoption, parenting & race. The series includes a wide variety of topics for both adoptive and pre-adoptive parents.

Attendance Includes CE Us (licensed through the California Board of Behavioral Science) which can be used to fulfill Foster Care and Adoption educational requirements for foster care and adoption, both domestic and International placements.

Become a Pact member to receive notices of topics and offerings as they become available.

www.pactadopt.org

**Pact's
Adoptive
Parents of
Color
Circle**



Join other adoptive parents of color and their families to create community and a sense of belonging for your children and yourself.

www.pactadopt.org



Below the Surface

by Beth Hall & Gail Steinberg

ask yourself ...

... the answer lies within you

*A self-evaluative guide for anyone
considering or participating in an adoption
across racial or cultural lines*



pact

Fulfills Hague education requirements
for international adopters

Fourth Edition

Below the Surface

*for parents of color considering or participating in
an adoption across racial or cultural lines*

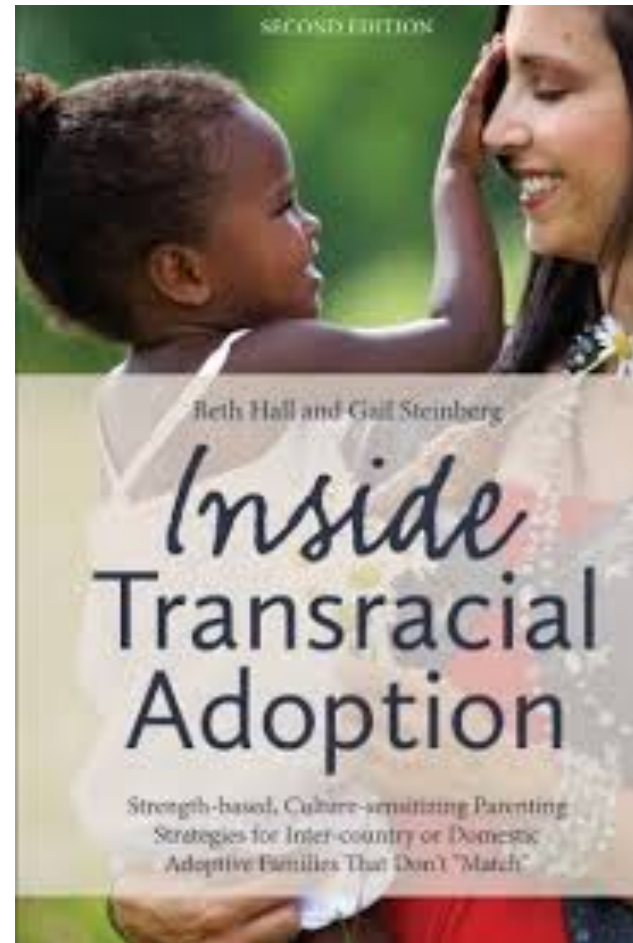
by Beth Hall & Gail Steinberg

2018 edition



pact

an adoption alliance



Race Matters

Are we postracial?

Does a colorblind approach work?



Whose Job Is It?



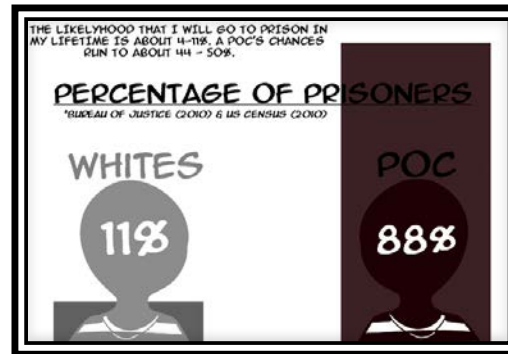
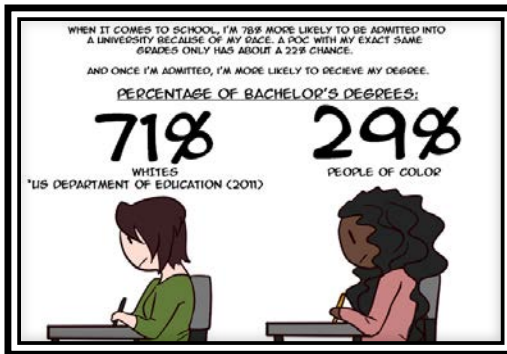
Three Step Learning Process *for transracial parents*

▶ #1

Understand
the Issues



Race Facts



- Infants as young as 6 months can reliably identify racial differences
- By age 2 1/2 - 3 indicate preferences
 - Same race preferences in peer selection/proximity
- Paradox for black young children by around 36 months

Racism

Internalized



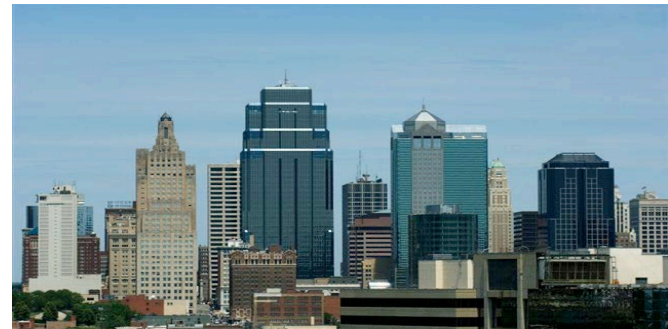
Institutional



Interpersonal



Structural



Three Step Learning Process *for transracial parents*



▶ #2

**Learn the
Language**

Courageous Conversations

Silence
Is
A
Conversation
Too



Three Step Learning Process *for transracial parents*



▶ #3

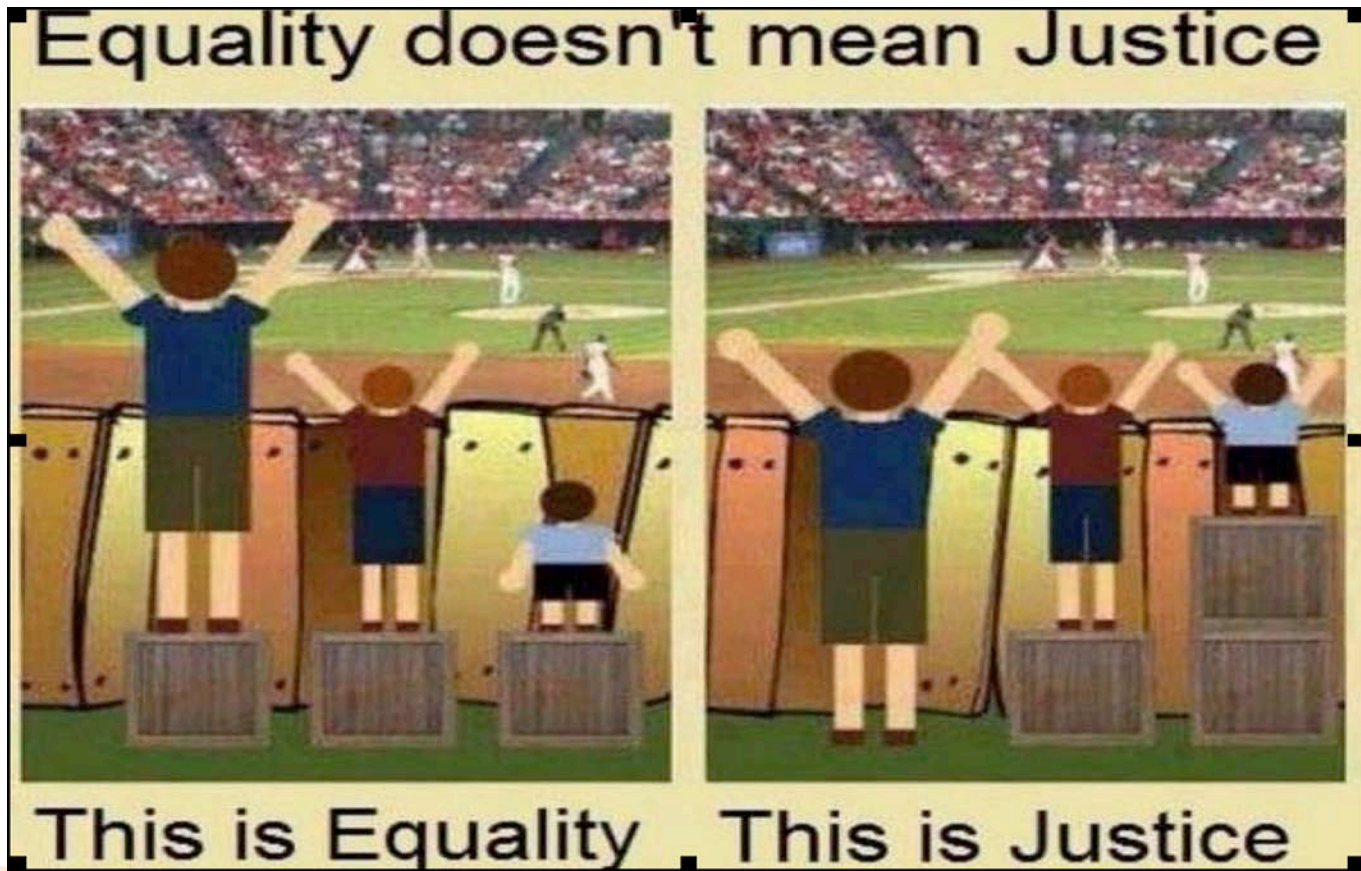
**Learn the
Tools**

Racial Isolation

1. Geographic
2. Demographic



Diversity Does Not Equal Equity



Why Transracial Parents Are Ineffective



- ▶ Personality type
- ▶ Shame
- ▶ Fear
- ▶ Unacknowledged racism
- ▶ Rainbow Families
- ▶ Visible Differences
- ▶ Emphasis on Culture vs Race



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Adoption is a metaphor for the human condition, setting us forth on a mythic quest that will prove that we are connection to each other and to all the creatures of this world and in this process, reveal to us who we really are.

Betty Jean Lifton, 1988

Questions?

Please enter your questions for Beth Hall
in the box to your right.



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the names of the attendees.

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