

JANE BROWN'S ADOPTION PLAYSHOPS 2009



Friday Night Playshop (C) • Sept. 25th at 7:00 pm (11 - 14 years)

Saturday AM Playshop (A-1) • Sept. 26th 9:00 am (5 - 6 years)

Saturday PM Playshop (B-1) • Sept. 26th at 1:00 pm (7 - 10 years)

Saturday Night Parent Session • Sept. 26th 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Sunday AM Playshop (A-2) • Sept. 27th 9:00 am (5 - 6 years)

Sunday PM Playshop (B-2) • Sept. 27th at 1:00 pm (7 - 10 years)

PARENT SESSION

Jane will focus her talk on issues that arise as a child ages including: tweens and teens, dealing with the new and different issues that parents will face as their children approach puberty, sexuality patterns with adopted children, issues with friends and family, school issues that arise as our older children begin to talk and think differently about adoption and multi-racial issues. There will be a Q&A session at the end where all adoption and multi-racial topics can be addressed.

THE CHILDREN'S PLAYSHOPS

Jane designed the Playshops to give children an opportunity to explore their ideas about their adoption and to interact with their peers. The Playshops are relevant to all adopted children and Jane uses multi-sensory games and props to encourage the children to discuss their feelings about being adopted. She helps children understand that the questions and thoughts they have about adoption are normal and help them acquire skills they can transfer to settings with all of their peers. This year's Playshops B and C will benefit from the

presence of a birthmother to help the older children identify with the third member of the adoption triad. Each Playshop is 2 hours in length. Children will participate independently with parents in an adjacent room.

The maximum enrollment per Playshop session is 30 children.

For approximately 1 hour following each Playshop, Jane will debrief the parents to advise them about the discussions and issues that arose during the Playshop. During this debriefing period, the Playshop participants will be supervised in an adjacent room.

- **Playshops A-1 & A-2** are designed for adopted children who, at the time of the Playshop, will be 5 or 6 years of age.
- **Playshops B-1 & B-2** are designed for adopted children who, at the time of the Playshop, will be between the ages of 7 and 10.
- **Playshop C** is designed for adopted children who, at the time of the Playshop, will be between the ages of 11 and 14.

Jane A. Brown M.S.W.

Jane is a social worker and educator with years of experience working with children. She is both a mother (of eight) and an adoptive parent (five of her children are internationally adopted from Korea, China and Hong Kong) and a grandmother. A well known speaker on adoption matters, Jane is a member of the editorial board of *Adoptive Families* magazine. Jane brings her professional knowledge and first hand experience to the challenges faced by both adoptive parents and children.

Holiday Inn Select Mississauga

2565 Argentia Rd.
Mississauga, ON
905-542-2121
www.hiselect.com

The hotel is located on the North/East side of the intersection at Derry Rd. and Argentia Rd. Just South of Hwy 401, exit at Winston Churchill Blvd. or Mississauga Rd. See the hotel's website for more detailed driving directions.

Presented by FCC Toronto, Children's Bridge, Family Outreach International and Open Arms to International Adoption



ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY

REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED PRIOR TO JUNE 30, 2009. Confirmation of session will be made by email only. For further information please contact Cindy Boates at cboates@yahoo.com or 416-417-9165.

PLEASE NOTE: In an attempt to be fair to all involved we have ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY and will be unable to process any registration forms that are postmarked prior to June 30, 2009. So have your registration ready, mark your calendar and drop it in the mail on June 30. We will be processing on a strictly first come, first served basis. You will be advised if the session you have requested is full and given the option of another time or a place on the waiting lists.

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Child's Name	DOB	Birth Country	Previous Year(s) Attended (circle applicable)				
			2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Number Attending

- Playshop C (11 - 14 year olds)..... Friday, September 25 at 7pm _____ x \$85.00 = _____
- Playshop A-1 (5 - 6 year olds)..... Saturday, September 26 at 9am _____ x \$85.00 = _____
- Playshop B-1 (7 - 10 year olds)..... Saturday, September 26 at 1pm _____ x \$85.00 = _____
- Parent Session Saturday, September 26 at 7pm _____ x \$30.00 = _____
- Playshop A-1 (5 - 6 year olds)..... Sunday, September 27 at 9am _____ x \$85.00 = _____
- Playshop B-2 (7 - 10 year olds) Sunday, September 27 at 1pm _____ x \$85.00 = _____

NEW! SPECIAL PLAYSHOP/PARENT SESSION BUNDLED DISCOUNT PRICE:

- One Playshop (any age) plus One Parent Session (Please indicate your preferred Playshop above) _____ x \$105.00 = _____

TOTAL = _____

Send completed form and a cheque (payable to FCC Toronto) **POSTMARKED NO EARLIER THAN JUNE 30** to: Cindy Boates 928 Queen St West Unit 35C, Mississauga, ON L5H 4K5

THE LOCATION: Holiday Inn Select Mississauga

2565 Argentia Rd., Mississauga, ON 905-542-2121 www.hiselect.com

The hotel is offering a special group rate of \$89.00 for a room with one king bed that can accommodate 2 people and \$109.00 for a suite with several beds and can accommodate up to five people. Mention "FCC Toronto" when you phone to book your rooms.

JANE BROWN'S ADOPTION PLAYSHOPS 2009



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT THE JANE BROWN PLAYSHOPS

Q. Why have the fees increased?

Please note that these Playshops are organized entirely by volunteers who offer no small amount of their time and energies in the months leading up to the Playshops and during the Playshops weekends. Our sole aim in offering these Playshops is to provide valuable support to both children and parents in their ongoing exploration of what it means to be transracially adopted.

BUT we must be self sufficient – we have to make sure that the four supporting organizations are not bearing an unreasonable financial risk. We price the Playshops to break even financially - if we make any profit, it is donated to China-related charities. Last year we suffered a substantial deficit and this loss was paid for equally by the four supporting organizations. This year, even though our suppliers' costs, including Jane Brown's fees, are being kept at the same levels as last year's fees, we have, nonetheless, had to increase Playshop prices to avoid another loss.

Q. How does registration work?

In an attempt to be fair to all involved we have ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY and will be unable to process any registration forms that are postmarked prior to June 30, 2009. So have your registration ready, mark your calendar and drop it in the mail on June 30. We will be processing on a strictly first come, first served basis, based on the postmark on your registration form. You will be advised if the session you have requested is full and given the option of another time or a place on the waiting lists. Confirmation of session will be made by email only. For further information please contact Cindy Boates at cboates@yahoo.com.

Q. Doesn't that favour families that live closer to the GTA?

No!! The way it works is that when you drop it in the mail on June 30 it will be postmark stamped at the Post Office. This will indicate the time and date it was received. It is these marks we use to determine order of registration. It actually has no bearing on when the registrar receives the mail – it could be within 1-2 days for someone close by or 1 week for someone farther away but it is the postmark date alone that matters. Please note, however, that any registrations postmarked PRIOR to June 30 will be not be accepted and you will not be registered. This is to ensure that everyone gets a fair chance to register for the Playshops. If you are unsure of when your mail is picked up, confirm ahead of time or take it directly to your local post office.

Q. I have a special circumstance, can I request a specific Playshop?

We will make every effort to ensure that your child is slotted into the Playshop that you select as your first choice but we cannot guarantee it. Those of you who have registered in prior years understand that the registration process is complex, so we ask for your patience and flexibility in order to plan for the possibility that your child will be placed in a different Playshop than you have requested. Until you receive confirmation of your attendance in a particular Playshop, please keep both slots open.

Q. If our plans change or something unexpected comes up, can I get a refund?

Please note that we are unable to give refunds if you withdraw from either a Playshop or the Parent session after September 10, 2009 for any reason.

Q. Can I stay with my child during the Playshop? Do I have to stay nearby/remain in the hotel during the Playshop?

Parents do not remain in the Playshops with the children. Please keep this in mind when deciding whether you think your child is ready to attend a Playshop. There is time at the beginning of each Playshop for children to transition from the parents into the Playshop but in order to be fair to all Playshop participants, parents cannot remain in the Playshop beyond this transition time. However, it is essential that ALL parents MUST remain in the adjoining room set out for them during the time their child is in the Playshop. This is to ensure that should your child need you for any reason you are close at hand. The facilitators CANNOT and WILL NOT come looking for you.

Q. My child is too young to attend the Playshops – will they continue to be offered in the future?

The continued operation of the Jane Brown Playshops is done on a purely non-profit, volunteer basis. There is a volunteer committee who organizes this event each year. If we continue to incur deficits, we will not be able to continue to run the Playshops in the future. The best way that you can ensure that these Playshops remain available for years to come is to support them by attending the Parent Session or by volunteering – either with the organizing committee or on the actual weekend – we are always in need of more volunteers. The Parent Session is a wonderful way to connect with the other parents (and parents-in-waiting) and the information Jane has to offer will be immensely valuable for years to come.

Q. Will there be child care offered during the Saturday night Parent Session?

We have not planned for this, however if there is enough interest we could see about informal child care or put the families requesting such in contact with each other.

Q. I have been to a previous Parent Session – is there any reason to go again?

Although the main thrust of Jane's message is similar each year, we change the exact topics of discussion around from year to year so there will always be something new to learn. As to the importance of the Parent Session in regards to the Playshop itself, here is what Jane has to say on that matter:

"We, as parents, tend to get less involved in school and other child-related organizations as our children get older. As they grow and mature, we tend to pull back from overseeing what they do. This partly explains why parents' involvement in FCC and other adoption support organizations tends to taper off. As a result, parents receive less and less ongoing educational information through adoption workshops or other seminars. This is not a wise idea, however, as our children's issues grow more, not less, complicated as they get older. Parents describe their children as "fine" through the mid-to-late elementary school years, and many continue to do so through the middle school years. For many, however, issues that have been suppressed under the surface during the elementary years tend to come to the surface – often, seemingly overnight – and the teen years can get very turbulent in lots of families. Parents who continue to attend adoption seminars and continue to listen to and talk with other families and adoption professionals continue to develop the specialized communication skills and other parenting skills that are specific to parenting adopted kids at various ages and stages of development. Parents who think everything is "fine" because their child looks to be happy, involved in lots of school-related and interest-related activities, and never brings up adoption or race won't choose to attend adoption-related educational workshops. That is the best time, however, for parents to be preparing themselves for challenges that may still lie ahead – changes in the way their child relates to them or to friends or extended family or which might impact on your child's life choices."