
**SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND THEIR RELATION TO GLOBAL HEALTH OF ADOPTED AND NON-ADOPTED ADOLESCENTS**

Considering research claiming that the emotional and social development is one of the last areas to recover from an initial adversity in life, it would be expected that the influence of the social support received by adoptees would follow a different logic to that which characterizes the non-adoptive population. **The present study aims to analyze the roles of the family, friends, classmates and teachers and their relationship with global health, by exploring whether there are any differences between adoptees and non-adoptees.** The sample consists of 28,768 adolescents aged between 11 and 18, who participated in the Spanish cross-sectional study Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) 2014. In this sample, 394 were adopted. **The results show that family support is more relevant for adoptees than non-adoptees, and classmate and teacher support is more relevant for non-adoptees than adoptees.** In addition, in the case of adopted adolescents, **there is no direct relationship between the school context and their global health; instead, the relationship is mediated by family and friends support.**

Click [HERE](#) to read the full abstract.


**PEER RELATIONSHIPS OF THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED ADOPTION OR FOSTER CARE**

This meta-analytic review examines the presence and quality of close peer relationships for adoptees and individuals with foster care experience. **Results indicate that adoptees show difficulty forming close peer relationships compared with biologically reared individuals, but they do not differ in the quality of these relationships.** In contrast, those with foster care experience report lower quality peer relationships than biologically reared individuals. Additionally, this meta-analysis includes prevalence rates of close peer relationships that illustrate most adoptees and foster youth report having high-quality peer relationships. These findings have important implications for intervention and prevention efforts and offer directions for future research on peer relationships among adoptees and foster youth, but should be considered in light of the presence of some publication bias.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full abstract.
THE ABCS OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Reihonna and Abbie published an article about inclusive practices for same-sex parent families, adoptive families and multiracial families in early childhood education!

Early childhood education is a time when children and their parents are learning about their roles in a school. This makes early childhood education a crucial time for developing strong parent-school relationships with diverse families including LGBTQ parents, adoptive families and multiracial families. This article gives specific, concrete suggestions about how to build and maintain a welcoming, representative and inclusive environment for diverse families in schools.

The article presents recommendations in three areas:

Welcoming environment: Everyone wants to feel welcomed in the environments they spend time in. Parents and families feel welcomed when schools, personnel and other parents communicate appreciation for their presence and enthusiasm about supporting them and their needs.

Representation: Seeing one’s family reflected in a child’s school is important for families and children. This includes families like theirs being referred to in classroom language, materials, and curriculum, and seeing their identities mirrored in school professionals and other parents.

Meaningful inclusion: Beyond just feeling welcomed, diverse families thrive when they have opportunities to engage with a school in a substantive way. This can include having events in the school that are truly applicable for their families and being encouraged to participate in parenting groups and activities.

Click HERE to view the issue of Zero to Three.
Happy Spring!

We have been busy in the TAPP lab. My edited book, LGBTQ Divorce and Relationship Dissolution (edited with Adam Romero, a legal scholar at UCLA) was released this winter. Even though it is not the happiest topic, I have been spending time talking to reporters, talk show hosts, therapists, and others about how divorce is not necessarily the sad ending that people typically think of. For many folks, it is not only a period of great pain, but may also ultimately welcome in a period of personal growth and new beginnings.

I have also been getting ready for my solo-authored book, Open Adoption in Diverse Families: Complex Relationships in the Digital Age, to be released next Winter! Many of your stories are featured in this book—suitably disguised, of course—and I’m excited for you to see your own, and other families’, experiences come to life. In other news, the TAPP lab will be traveling to Chicago IL for the American Psychological Association conference in August to present our work and learn from colleagues. I am personally very much looking forward to some downtime before them, as it has been a very busy year with teaching, directing Clark’s Women’s & Gender Studies program, and keeping up with our research!

Melissa (4th year PhD student) recently had a paper accepted for publication on the topic of parent naming (e.g., “mama and mommy,” “papa and daddy”) among same-sex adoptive parents. This paper uses TAPP data! Melissa is also in the beginning stages of her dissertation research. She will be studying open relationships and consensual nonmonogamy among parents.

Nora (1st year PhD student) is busy finishing up her first year of the PhD program - phew! She's happy to have already been able to interview many of you as well as contribute to TAPP lab publications. This summer, she's looking forward to analyzing data for her current project on changes in internalized homophobia over time among lesbian and gay adoptive parents.

Reihonna (4th year PhD student) has submitted two papers about experiences of adoptive parents of siblings: one about second adoptions and one about sibling group adoptions. She is preparing to teach courses in Child Development and Child Welfare Policy at Smith School of Social Work. She is also beginning to work on her dissertation, focusing on sibling relationships in foster care!

Jake Sullivan, ‘20, is an undergraduate member of the TAPP lab. For the past year, he has helped with many of the projects in lab. Now, as he enters his senior year, Jake is starting some research of his own! Working with Dr. Goldberg, Jake was awarded a Steinbrecher Fellowship for his study titled, “A study of LGBTQ+ young adults’ identity development in the age of social media.” Here is an excerpt from his proposal:

The ubiquity of social media is unmistaken, and for today’s youth, the line between “online” and “offline” identifies has become blurred. Sullivan will examine how social media shapes the sexual and gender identity development of queer adolescents, and interview queer youth and young adults to better understand how social media has shaped their LGBTQ+ identities and how people can be supported in today’s connected world.
Adoption in the News: Changing Laws on Adoptees’ Access to Birth Certificates

Mother Jones (March, 2019)

ACCESSING BIRTH CERTIFICATES

After 1935, adoption agencies offered “confidential” or “closed” adoptions, in which there’s no contact between the birth and adoptive families while the adoptee is a minor. But adoptees of all ages, in states where the right to access their original birth certificate has not been restored to them as adults, continue to have the option to petition the court for a copy of this document.

States then started to seal original birth certificates once the adoption was finalized and issued an amended version to appear as if the adoptive parents had given birth to their adopted son or daughter. This began a clandestine process that politicians and supporters first presented as a way to protect the child from any perceived stigma of being adopted and later would present as a way to protect adoptive families from birth mothers who might meddle in their newly created or expanded families.

For most adoptees seeking to unseal their records, this practice has resulted in a difficult and costly journey should they ever attempt to get a copy of their original birth certificate. With no federal law dictating access to adoption records, the matter was left up to the states, where there is a patchwork of vastly different laws, none of which are based on any unifying legal precedent. Today, in statehouses around the country, a diverse and growing movement of adoptees, birth mothers, adoptive parents, and others — who see restoring unrestricted access to records of adult adoptees’ birth, like their original birth certificate, as an essential civil right — is pushing lawmakers to consider measures to enact what is known as “clean” adoption reform.

Activists argued it was important for them to understand their biological history, and the difficulty in accessing birth certificates was burdensome and discriminatory. No other American is required to get a court order to access this basic document.

Click HERE to read the full article.

Adoption in the News: Adoption Memoir on New York Times Best Sellers List

By Katy Waldman, The New Yorker (October, 2018)

ADOPTION MEMOIR, “ALL YOU CAN EVER KNOW,” IS AN ODE TO SISTERLY LOVE

Nicole Chung’s adoption memoir, All You Can Ever Know” was featured on the New York Times Best Sellers list and also a focus of our TAPP class for undergraduates this past year! We highly recommend this well-written, insightful book.

An excerpt of the The New Yorker’s review:

Whenever Nicole Chung, as a child, asked her mother about her birth parents, she always heard the same answer: they “had just moved here from Korea” and “thought they wouldn’t be able to give you the life you deserved.” This brief story, one of love and sadness and altruism, “may be all you can ever know,” her mother told her. “All You Can Ever Know” is now the title of Chung’s memoir. The phrase has a double meaning. It hints at the vastness of what can be gleaned—true or false—from an origin story, even as it evokes a sense of permanent loss and incompleteness: the same feelings that marked much of Chung’s upbringing among white, Catholic Oregonians in the eighties and nineties. Chung, the editor of Catapult magazine and a former editor at the Toast, was raised by parents who believed that she was a gift from God. She attended an all-white school, where students teased her for being adopted and for looking “different.” She writes that she was often lonely as a kid, despite her adoring mom and goofy dad. Her family prided itself on a “colorblind” approach; Chung had no language to talk about racism, which she equated with marches and fire hoses. The fact of her adoption amplified her self-consciousness. Was there “something we lacked,” she wondered, of adoptees, “that made us easier, possible, to part with?”

Click HERE to read the full article. Click HERE to get the book!
MERGING COMPANIES: EXPANDING RESOURCES

Holt International and World Association for Children and Parents (WACAP), two of the nation’s leading international nonprofit adoption and child welfare agencies, today announced a strategic merger under the name Holt International Children’s Services, effective April 1, 2019. This merger brings together more than 100 years of collective experience and expertise in child welfare and adoption, strengthening global impact by broadening support for vulnerable children and families in the U.S. and abroad.

Leveraging Holt’s growth in child welfare efforts, the merger will allow both organizations to combine resources and extend reach to more children and families with the child-centric work at the heart of each organization.

“The ways in which we can provide permanency for children, however, continue to change. Through domestic foster care, and Holt’s family strengthening programs internationally, we can achieve permanency for children through reunification with or preservation of their biological families. When that isn’t possible, we stand ready with adoptive families to welcome children home,” said Greg Eubanks, president and chief executive officer of WACAP.

Holt’s care for orphaned and vulnerable children as well as family strengthening services include education, safe housing, nourishing food, as well as community advocacy and job skills training that help empower parents with the tools and resources they need to independently care for their children.

Click HERE to read the full article.

BEING A TRANSNATIONAL KOREAN ADOPTEE, BECOMING ASIAN AMERICAN

Around the time of the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea, sociologist Wendy Marie Laybourn conducted research on the identity development and lived experiences of Korean adoptees in America. Using interviews and historical material, Laybourn situates international adoption from Korea within the broader historical and sociopolitical context. The full article is available online and is interesting reading!

An excerpt:

Creating Community

What happens when you don’t feel fully part of either of the communities you are expected to belong to? A critical mass of Korean adoptees was coming of age as the internet’s mainstream expansion took hold in the mid-1990s. Korean adoptees started to use online message boards to find people like themselves. Facilitated first by Yahoo! Groups and now by Facebook Groups, Korean adoptees created spaces to find one another, share their experiences, and explore their Korean heritage culture. For some, these online spaces offered their first connections to other adoptees. Due to geographic constraints, some Korean adoptees’ interactions remain constrained to the online groups, while for many others, in-person meet-ups extend their connections into “real-world” spaces.

“Where did you grow up?”
“Have you been back to Korea?”
“Have you done a birth family search?”
“Any suggestions for where to take Korean [language] classes?”

Over a family-style meal at a local restaurant, a flurry of questions and recommendations filled the air. About a dozen adult Korean adoptees, women and men ranging in age from their late 20s to early 50s, were bonding. Some were new to the Korean adoptee community and others more established, but they were coming together over experiences such as being the “only one”—the only Asian, the only adoptee—when they were growing up, addressing race or avoiding race altogether with their White family members, and visiting Korea for the first time. Korean adoptee groups like these can be found across the United States.

Click HERE to read the full article.
A new class-action lawsuit filed Tuesday accuses the state of inadequately protecting Oregon’s foster children.

Ten foster children, representing the roughly 8,000 children in the state's care, want a federal court to fix longstanding issues at the Oregon Department of Human Services.

They sued the state agency and its director, Fari borz Pakseresht, the agency's director of children welfare, Marilyn Jones and Gov. Kate Brown.

The lawsuit alleges the state is violating foster kids’ civil rights, including federal laws that safeguard the rights of children in state custody.

The lawsuit alleges that the state is also failing to protect the rights of foster kids with disabilities, who are LGBTQ, or those 14 and older who are poised to age out of the system.

The lawsuit alleges that DHS doesn't assess kids properly and quickly enough to figure out what they need in terms of treatment and placement. There aren't enough foster homes, which means that kids are put in places that may not be right for them, including hospitals, homeless shelters, and refurbished juvenile detention facilities, the suit contends.

A key issue that the lawsuit points to is the agency's shortage of child welfare workers compared to the number of children who are removed from homes.

Click HERE to read the full article.
**DISCRIMINATION BY ADOPTION AGENCIES**

Democratic lawmakers in both chambers of the Michigan Legislature proposed a series of bills Wednesday that would enact protections for LGBT couples when adopting children.

The lawmakers behind House Bills 4469-4472 and Senate Bills 272-275 hope to allow same-sex parents to adopt their partner’s biological or adoptive child, further protect same-sex couples from discrimination when adopting and hold adoption agencies accountable for discrimination.

State Sen. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, told The Daily he and his colleagues proposed the package of bills because former Gov. Rick Snyder signed bills allowing faith-based adoption agencies to discriminate against LGBT individuals.

“In some cases, adoption agencies were using their religious beliefs as a rationale to deny adoption to certain parents, particularly LGBT parents … and parents who may be out of the mainstream in any number of other ways,” Irwin said. “I personally thought that was very offensive and very much against our most closely held American values.”

“These bills are definitely a step in the right direction when it comes to LGBT equality Michigan,” Mancuso said. “LGBT individuals in Michigan face discrimination on a number of levels and these bills will help ensure equal treatment of LGBT individuals across the state.”

Click [HERE](#) to read the full article.

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**CALLING ON CONGRESS: FAMILY ACT**

HRC called on Congress to advance the FAMILY Act — critically important legislation that would establish the nation’s first-ever federal insurance program for paid family and medical leave. Reintroduced in Congress today by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), the LGBTQ-inclusive measure would ensure employees have access to 12 weeks of partial income if they take time off for their health, a health problem of a child, parent, spouse or domestic partner, the birth or adoption of a child, or military caregiving and leave purposes.

In 2018, the HRC Foundation [released a report](#) detailing the results of a groundbreaking nationwide survey of LGBTQ people that revealed an urgent need for inclusive, employer-paid family and medical leave. Only 45 percent of respondents reported that their employers offer leave policies — paid or unpaid — that are inclusive of LGBTQ families and identities.

“American workers are too often forced to choose between their jobs and the well-being of their families, because taking paid leave is simply not an option,” said HRC Government Affairs Director David Stacy. “The FAMILY Act would establish a national program providing peace of mind to all families — including LGBTQ families — and bring family and medical leave policies into the 21st century.”

In addition, LGBTQ families face higher rates of poverty than the overall public, and inclusive paid leave would help ensure these families will not have to risk their economic livelihood when needing to take time off to care for loved ones. In fact, families that are headed by same-sex couples earn on average $15,000 less than a family headed by different-sex couples. Children who are raised by same-sex couples, compared to those who are raised by different-sex couples, are twice as likely to be in poverty.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full article. Click [HERE](#) to watch a video about adoption benefits.
**EXPERIENCES WITH TRANS CHILDREN**

Eight nonheterosexual (i.e., bisexual, lesbian, bi/pansexual) mothers with trans children between 6 and 11 years of age participated in semistructured interviews in which they discussed the intersections of their own sexual minority identities with their children's gender identities or expressions. Transfamily theory was utilized to understand how heteronormativity and cisnormativity operated in these families' lives. Initial lack of awareness among most of the mothers regarding trans identities, as well as efforts by some to curb their children's gender expressions, paralleled previous reports on primarily heterosexual parents with trans children. Having sexual minority identities and experience with LGBTQ communities was beneficial for some mothers but seemingly disadvantageous for others, in that some experienced blame for their children’s trans statuses, often due to the fact that these mothers identified as queer themselves.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full abstract.

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**GAY DADS: RACE, CLASS, AND MARITAL STATUS**

**Objective:** To investigate stratification within gay fatherhood communities.

**Background:** As laws and attitudes have become friendlier to queer families in recent decades, gay fathers have experienced increased visibility in and through both media and scholarship. However, this visibility has been distributed unevenly along normative patterns of marital status, race, class, and kinship.

**Results:** Findings suggest that single gay fathers, gay fathers of color, and gay fathers who had children in heterosexual contexts occupy marginalized statuses within the gay fatherhood community. Gay fathers develop distinct mechanisms of resilience to respond to the challenges associated with their marginalization.

**Conclusion:** The experiences of gay fathers on the margins highlight the negative consequences of gay fatherhood discourses that reproduce family normativity. The resources available through gay parenting groups simultaneously played a role in gay fathers’ well-being, resilience, and marginalization.

**Implications:** Efforts to expand opportunities for gay families should consider coalitions with other marginalized family forms. Gay parents who had children in heterosexual unions should be specifically targeted through gay parenting outreach.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full abstract.
Adoptees On is a gathering of incredible adopted people willing to share their intimately personal stories with you about the impact adoption has had on our lives. Listen in and you will discover that you are not alone on this journey. This season, they focus on different types of relationships adoptees have.

Click HERE to visit the website for the “relationship” season of the show or HERE to find more podcasts from the Adoptees On Podcast!

Center for Adoption Medicine (September, 2007)

FRIENDSHIPS, SOCIAL SKILLS, AND ADOPTION

What adoption professionals hear from some families is that their children “feel” younger than they are, and gravitate towards younger children, or are more drawn to adults than peers. It can be hard for them to “share” conversation; they may divulge too much personal information, or have difficulty finding interests in common. They may have trouble joining their classmates in play. They often lack a sense of how to be a good host when having friends over (controlling the play, etc). Children may not get invited to play-dates or parties, and may lack a good friend.

Causes of Friendship Problems in Fostered and Adopted Kids

Social skills problems in the context of foster care and adoption have not been well-researched, but the causes likely lie in a combination of:

✴ Lack of early secure attachments leading to more anxious/controlling behaviors in later relationships
✴ Poor social boundaries and judgement, difficulty reading others’ social cues
✴ Poor emotional regulation (quick to anger at perceived slights and rejection, etc)
✴ Delayed social/emotional development
✴ Challenges in social communication and language, making it hard to keep up with the increasingly fast-paced world of their peers

Tips for Helping Children Struggling Socially

Help your kids with the basics of social interactions
✴ Encourage and model use of positive statements like praise and agreement
✴ Help your kids learn to share a conversation

Help children have frequent, successful play dates
✴ For younger/less mature children, having shorter, more structured play dates can help
✴ Practice being a good host beforehand, and come up with possible activities that their guest may enjoy
✴ As a parent, stay aware of how things are going without hovering

Click HERE to read the full article with many helpful resources and ideas!

The Cleveland Clinic (November, 2016)

WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE FRIENDS

What if your child isn’t a social butterfly? What if your child spends time alone at recess and after school? As a parent, there are some ways you can help, says pediatric behavioral health specialist Kristen Eastman, PsyD.

✴ Take time to observe and understand how your child socializes
  Start with a “fly on the wall” approach, Dr. Eastman suggests. Attend a few activities at school (or sports after school) and pay close attention to how your child interacts with others. Does he behave differently than his “norm” at home? If so, why?

✴ Role play at home
  If your pre-teen or teenager finds it difficult to start conversations at lunch or during free time at school, sit down and practice at home. Discuss what topics interest him that he might talk about with other kids. Test different options until he finds something that comes naturally.

Click HERE to read the full article and suggestions.
Review by Jim Vejvoda, ign.com

Shazam! (2019) **SPOILERS**

Shazam! is DC's most joyful and sweet movie since the days of Christopher Reeve's Superman, a funny yet earnest coming-of-age story about a boy who learns that, well, with great power comes great responsibility. So obviously, Shazam! doesn't reinvent the superhero movie, but it's an undeniably fun time that left me wanting more big-screen adventures with these charming characters.

It's thus able to be as carefree as a child, to just have fun despite having to inevitably grow up and confront some very adult concerns along the way. Namely, how streetwise foster child Billy Batson must accept responsibility for his behavior if he's going to prove truly worthy of the magical gifts bestowed upon him.

The key message of Shazam! is that it's gravely important how adults treat children, whether it's through remarks or rejections or the choices adults make that impact a child's emotional development. At the same time, it's ultimately up to the child to decide whether they turn out kind or unkind.

The movie nicely provides a rarely seen positive depiction of foster care, as the most recent family to take Billy in are legitimately good people who truly want the best for him. Of this family — which includes the adorable, but not overly precocious younger sister Darla — the character with the most development is Billy's foster house roommate Freddie, whose skills as an in-universe DC fanboy help him fill the mentor role for our fledgling and decidedly ungeeky superhero.

This movie is rated PG-13.

Click HERE to read the full article. Learn more about this film and read a full foster care-specific review, HERE.

At the Library:

Books About Adoption

American Eyes
Edited by Lori Carlson (1995)

Amazon description: In this unique collection of touching and heartfelt short stories, ten young Asian-American writers recreate the conflicts that all young people feel living in two distinct worlds — one of memories and traditions, and one of today. Whether it includes dreams of gossiping with the prettiest blond girl in class, not wanting to marry the man your parents love, or discovering that your true identity is ultimately your decision, these extraordinary stories by writers of Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Hawaiian, Filipino, and Korean descent explore the confusion and ambivalence of growing up in a world different from the one their parents knew — and the choices we all must make when looking for a world to which we want to belong.

Recommended for Ages 12+

The Pinballs
by Betsy Byars (1977)

Amazon description: Carlie knows she's got no say in what happens to her. Stuck in a foster home with two other kids, Harvey and Thomas J, she's just a pinball being bounced from bumper to bumper. As soon as you get settled, somebody puts another coin in the machine and off you go again. But against her will and her better judgment, Carlie and the boys become friends. And all three of them start to see that they can take control of their own lives.

Recommended for Ages 10+
HEALTH BEHAVIORS AND OUTCOMES OF PARENTS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

Background
The Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2020 initiative, launched in 2010, identified “parenting issues throughout the life course” as a pressing issue in healthcare research that would need to be evaluated and addressed over the next decade. Despite this recent call, very little research has addressed health issues, behaviors, and outcomes of LGBTQ parents specifically. Such research is important because LGBTQ people are at risk for worse health outcomes as compared to heterosexual and cisgender parents—in large part due to the higher levels of discrimination, stigma, and stress that they experience.

Study
The researchers examined two major questions among lesbian and gay adoptive parents, but it is likely that heterosexual adoptive parents could take important information away from the findings as well, especially if they perceive themselves to be under an unusual amount of stress as compared to other parents:

- How do parenting-specific factors (e.g., parenting stress, having multiple children versus an only child) affect health behaviors (e.g., exercise) and health outcomes (chronic health conditions)
- How do sexual minority-specific factors (e.g., being married versus not being married) affect health behaviors and outcomes

Results
At a descriptive level, we found that about 17% of the parents reported no physical exercise. This is slightly lower than the 27% of U.S. adults ages 45-64 reporting no physical activity in national survey data, but notably, about two thirds of parents were exercising three or more times per week, meeting most health guidelines’ recommendations. Walking was the most frequently reported type of exercise, and almost 90% of parents wanted to exercise more.

Regarding sleep, more than one-third of parents were getting less than seven hours of sleep per night, which is regarded as less than ideal by the National Sleep Foundation. In terms of alcohol use, the sample overall was not using high levels of alcohol—which is consistent with research showing that parenthood may result in reduced substance use. Men were found to drink more but were also more likely to want to cut down.

Regarding health behaviors, married parents and parents of multiple children were less likely to exercise. In addition, men with higher parenting stress were less likely to exercise whereas women with high parenting stress were more likely to exercise. Parents with multiple children and parents with lower parenting stress were more likely to get adequate sleep. Parents with multiple children and male parents drank more alcohol.

Regarding health outcomes, parents with higher parenting stress and unmarried parents were more likely to have a health condition. Having multiple children was associated with a greater likelihood of a chronic health condition for women but a lower likelihood for men. Finally, unmarried parents and parents with lower family income rated their health less positively.

Conclusion
This is among the first exploratory studies of same-sex parents' health behaviors and outcomes, and it highlights important findings related to parenting-factors, sexual minority-specific factors, and gender. For example, having multiple children was associated with a lower likelihood of regular exercise, drinking regularly, and among men, having a health condition (the reverse was true for women). These results have important implications for healthcare and adoption professionals who can help same-sex parents adjust to the demands of parenthood and also advise them on the unique characteristics and stressors that can impact their health. This information can then empower parents to make better informed decisions about their health.

Click HERE to read the full paper.
Just for Fun: Lego Challenges

From childhood101.com

Lego Challenges

As many different pieces of Lego that exist, there are potential Lego challenges, such as:

- Can you build a structure that moves in some way?
- Can you build a tower at least 1 foot tall that will support a tennis ball?
- Can you design and build a useful tool that will help make life easier in some way?

Challenge Variations:
- Limit the number of pieces
- Limit the type of pieces
- Set a minimum or maximum height or width for the construction.

For other ideas click [HERE](#).

Just for Fun: Origami Star Boxes

From pickle-bums.com

Learn to make these cute origami star boxes to sort all sorts of little things you can’t find a place for!

For details about how to make them, click [HERE](#).

Just for Fun:

Q: When do monkeys fall from the sky?  
A: During Ape-ril showers!

Q: What flowers grow on faces?  
A: Tulips (Two-lips)!

Please send us your updates.  
If you have any questionnaires lying around, please send them back!  
We are thinking of you all.

-Abbie & the Transition to Adoptive Parenthood Project team  
(Melissa, Rei honna & Nora)

PS: We’re on Facebook! Even if you don’t have a page of your own, you can look at the TAPP Facebook page. To check us out, click [here](#).