

AFTER ADOPTION

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Press Release

Elaine Frank, LCSW, and Denise Rowe, BA, of Parenting Services for Families and After Adoption, located at 2 Bala Plaza, Bala Cynwyd, recently presented their work at the 14th World Congress on Infant Mental Health in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Congress, titled "Babies: Their Contributions—Our Responsibilities," was attended by more than 1,500 delegates from 40 countries.

Elaine and Denise are co-directors of Parenting Services for Families and After Adoption. Their presentation, "Prevention, Early Intervention Parent-Infant-Toddler Groups: Attachment, Empathy and Enhancing the Emotional Bond," described their group work, focused on teaching parents about the early emotional development of their infants and toddlers.

When parents can empathize with their growing child's needs and behaviors, they develop more age-appropriate expectations, which in turn, helps children develop more positive relationships with parents, siblings and peers.

"It was so interesting to attend the Congress and meet many people from around the world who are working to improve the mental health of very young children," said Elaine Frank.

A parallel session, "Risk and Resilience of Post-Institutionalized Children," demonstrated how staff from the University of Pittsburgh and Saint Petersburg State University in Russia are working together to improve the mental health of young children in St. Petersburg Baby Home #13. Denise Rowe said, "We also work with adoptive families, and these intervention programs are providing necessary services for maintaining the healthy social-emotional development of institutionalized children who may become available for adoption in the US."

Parenting Services for Families offers a parent-child group for families with children under the age of three and a group for therapists who have recently become parents. After Adoption offers a parent-child group for families with adopted children under four.

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