

# Pathways To Permanency

Summer 2011



## *A Note from Ramone....*

Summer has arrived and it's time to take stock of the busy year in our Pathways to Permanency Program (formerly known as the Kinship Adoption Program) at Adoption by Choice. During this past fiscal year which ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 the Pathways to Permanency Program was able to complete 24 adoption finalization packages which in turn will be filed with the court for the adoption orders to be granted for 24 children. There was a wide range in ages of children serviced, however we saw an increase of children between the ages of 9 and 12 years old, and we are so happy to see a number of older children's adoption plans being finalized. As well we serviced families from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds including Chinese, Sudanese, Lebanese, Latin American, Métis, Inuit and First Nation Canadians. In the Pathways to Permanency Program safety and permanency are at the core of every adoption, and we work towards providing a service that will support and enhance the child's connection to their cultural roots. We work closely with community resources to help families begin or enhance cultural connections for the children in their care. In the Pathways program we help both kinship and foster families to work towards permanency in their journey towards adopting the child(ren) in their care. We often find that families need additional support in connecting to community resources outside of the Children and Youth Services system, which provides them with the needed services and the additional confidence to make the permanent commitment in adoption.

There has been some change within our Pathways to Permanency Program, and it is with heartfelt feelings that we said good-bye to our former supervisor Tammy Hunt at the end of June 2011. Tammy was very instrumental in the development of the Pathways Program since its beginning in April 2008. We all wish Tammy and her husband all the best in their move to Edmonton.

I am very happy to welcome Linda Harvey as our new Pathways to Permanency Program supervisor. Linda has been working within the field of social work for over 30 years and has extensive experience in the areas of adoption, foster care and kinship care. We are so happy to have Linda move into this position. We continue to be very busy in our program helping families achieve their goal of adoption. Should you require additional information about the Pathways to Permanency Program, please don't hesitate to contact us directly. I hope that everyone has a peaceful and enjoyable summer!

Ramone Kindrat  
Executive Director  
Adoption By Choice

## Upcoming Training Sessions

### Preparing For Adoption

September 24 & 25, 2011  
November 5 & 6, 2011  
January 20, 21, 2011

### Adoptive Parent Preparation Course

August 5,6,7 &13, 2011  
September 9,10,11 & 17, 2011  
October 14, 15, 16 & 22, 2011  
November 18, 19, 20 &26, 2011

### Aboriginal Adoption Training

September 17, 2011  
October 22, 2011  
November 26, 2011



## Pathways To Permanency Support Group

### **Pathways to Permanency Support Group Update - June 2011**

For the past 4 months (March-June 2011), The Pathways to Permanency program offered a therapeutic support group for adoptive parents and their children. This group met on the first Tuesday evening of each month and areas of focus were attachment, grief, loss, and adjustment to their new family structure. These adoptive children (ages 5-10) were given the opportunity to receive therapeutic intervention in a peer-group setting with Therapist Terra Bovingdon, MSW, RSW. While the children met with the Therapist, their adoptive parents had the opportunity to meet in the regular adult support group to discuss topics such as boundaries with birth parents, grief and loss and talking to children about adoption. Although these therapeutic sessions were a pilot project, future groups will be considered based on need and interest. Please contact your Adoption Facilitator at Adoption By Choice if your family is interested in attending a future group.

There will be more information to follow, but the Pathways to Permanency Program will be planning a September 2011 family picnic. Mark your calendars...we will resume our regular adult support group for adoptive parents on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm @ Adoption By Choice 250, 3115-12<sup>th</sup> Street NE. Looking forward to seeing you in the Fall! We always welcome new families at any stage of their adoption.

For more information about the Pathways to Permanency Support Group, please contact:

Jeremy Nay 403-244-2700 ext.5  
Jennifer Tevelein 403-244-2700 ext. 6



# Movie in the Park – FREE

Filed Under: [Cheapies & Freebies](#)



Anyone can simply ‘show’ a movie, but Movie in the Park takes it to a whole new level by first starting with a unique change of venue – the great outdoors.

Imagine relaxing in the comfort of your chair, or blanket in the crisp, cool evening grass surrounded by family and friends getting ready to take in a blockbuster movie outdoors as your mouth begins to water while the fresh-air begins to mingle with the buttery scent of hot popcorn.

Families and movie-goers alike flock to Movie in the Park because of the numerous pre-movie activities and family-fun including: special themes, children’s entertainers (magicians, balloon artists, clowns, jugglers) novelty dances, our famous hula-hoop contests, children’s carnival games, inflatable bounce houses, prize giveaways, and more!

Where: various communities around the city in the summer

Website: [www.movieinthepark.ca](http://www.movieinthepark.ca)

## **The City Of Calgary Summer Programs.**

Lots of free activities over the summer, check the link below for your community events

[http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/cns/adventure\\_together.pdf](http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/cns/adventure_together.pdf)

# Sunridge Mall Sunkidz – FREE

Filed Under: [Cheapies & Freebies](#)

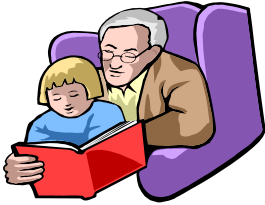


Sunridge Mall invites all kids six and under to sign up for its new Sunkidz program. On the first Wednesday of each month (November and December excluded) at 10am, children and their parents will enjoy exciting activities, including crafts, games, sing-a-longs, and special guests.

To register visit Guest Services on the main level of Sunridge Mall for details. For general info, please call 403-280- 2525 or email [info@sunridgemall.com](mailto:info@sunridgemall.com).

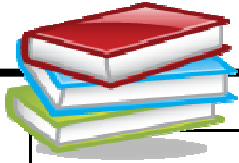
Membership is free; however, a parent or guardian must register the child and accompany him or her to Sunkidz events.

**Talking to Your Child About Adoption:**



Adoption is a life long journey for all involved and therefore, so is talking about adoption. It is NEVER too early to start talking to your child about adoption, even to newborns. Parents need to initiate the conversation and adding more information based on the child's developmental age and ability to understand the information. Reading together is a great way to open the lines of communication. Below are a list of children's books that may be useful to you as you talk to your child about adoption.

<b>Book:</b>	<b>Author:</b>	<b>Description/Further Info:</b>
<b>“Little Miss Spider”</b>	<b>David Kirk</b>	<i>Sunny Patch on Tree House TV is based on the Little Miss Spider Book Series</i>
<b>“The Family Book”</b>	<b>Todd Parr</b>	<i>Celebrates family variety</i>
<b>“It’s Okay to be Different”</b>	<b>Todd Parr</b>	<i>Discussion about differences, specifically notes adoption</i>
<b>“Mama, Do you Love Me?”</b>	<b>Barbara M. Joesse</b>	<i>a book about testing limits and unconditional love</i>
<b>“We Belong Together: A book about adoption and families”</b>	<b>Todd Parr</b>	<i>A book about belonging</i>
<b>“They Chose Me: A story of grandparent adoption”</b>	<b>Rhonda Beheler</b>	<i>Focus on kinship adoption with birth parent contact</i>
<b>“We’re Different, We’re the Same”</b>	<b>Bobbi Jane Kates</b>	<i>Discusses differences and similarities between people in a general way</i>
<b>“Abby”</b>	<b>Jeannette Caines</b>	<i>Relates to toddler adoption</i>
<b>“Why am I Different?”</b>	<b>Norma Simon</b>	<i>Celebrates differences, mentions adoption</i>
<b>“A Family for Jamie”</b>	<b>Suzanne Bloom</b>	<i>Discussion of infant adoption</i>
<b>“How I was Adopted”</b>	<b>Joanna Cole</b>	<i>Discussion of infant adoption, but also asks the reader “do you know your adoption story?”</i>
<b>“Steven’s Baseball Mitt: A book about being adopted”</b>	<b>Kathy Stinson</b>	<i>Steven struggles with the fact that he was adopted and wonders about his birthmother</i>
<b>“The Day we met you”</b>	<b>Phoebe Koehler</b>	<i>Infant adoption</i>



<b>“Two Birthdays for Beth”</b>	<b>Gay Lynn Cornin</b>	<i>Introduction to adoption</i>
<b>“Happy Adoption Day!”</b>	<b>John McCutcheon</b>	<i>Celebration of adoption</i>
<b>“Kids need to be safe: a book for children in foster care”</b>	<b>Julie Nelson</b>	<i>Discusses why children are in foster care</i>
<b>“Families are Different”</b>	<b>Nina Pellegrini</b>	<i>Discussion about adoption and varying family structures</i>
<b>“One Wonderful You”</b>	<b>Francie Portnoy</b>	<i>Discussion of how adopted children are a part of two families—birth and adopted</i>
<b>“Adoption is for Always”</b>	<b>Linda Walvoord Girard</b>	<i>Identity and adoption</i>
<b>“Horace”</b>	<b>Holly Keller</b>	<i>Discussion about adoption and belonging</i>
<b>“Feeling Afraid”</b>	<b>Joy Berry</b>	<i>Discusses fear, not specific to adoption</i>
<b>“Feeling Angry”</b>	<b>Joy Berry</b>	<i>Discusses handling anger in positive ways, not specific to adoption</i>
<b>“The Color of Us”</b>	<b>Karen Katz</b>	<i>Discussion of diversity, not specific to adoption</i>
<b>“When I Feel Angry”</b>	<b>Cornelia Maude Spelman</b>	<i>About handling anger, not adoption specific</i>
<b>“If You’re Angry and You Know it”</b>	<b>Cecily Kaiser</b>	<i>Ways to handle anger, not adoption specific</i>
<b>“I Like Myself”</b>	<b>Karen Beaumont</b>	<i>Self-esteem</i>
<b>“The Crayon Box that Talked”</b>	<b>Shane DeRolf</b>	<i>Discusses differences and getting along</i>
<b>“Jungle Bullies”</b>	<b>Steven Kroll</b>	<i>Bullying</i>

<b>“Your Body Belongs to You”</b>	<b>Cornelia Spelman</b>	<i>Discussion of personal boundaries</i>
<b>“Puppies for Sale”</b>	<b>Dan Clark</b>	<i>About a child with a physical disability</i>
<b>“The Paper Bag Princess”</b>	<b>Robert Munsch</b>	<i>Discussion of stereotypes, gender and acceptance</i>
<b>“My New Family: A First Look at Adoption”</b>	<b>Pat Thomas</b>	<i>Discusses adoption and foster families. Also discusses sadness about the loss of birth parents</i>
<b>“The Mulberry Bird: An Adoption Story”</b>	<b>Anne Braff Brodzinsky</b>	<i>A mother bird gives her baby up for adoption as she cannot provide what the baby bird needs</i>



McMan Youth Family & Community Services  
Presents

# **Kaleidoscope Mentor Program**

## **Ages 13-21**

**This group is open to youth who may have or do have FASD**

2:00 to 6:00pm every Monday for July and August beginning  
July 4<sup>th</sup>

at

Crescent Heights Baptist Church  
1212 – 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW

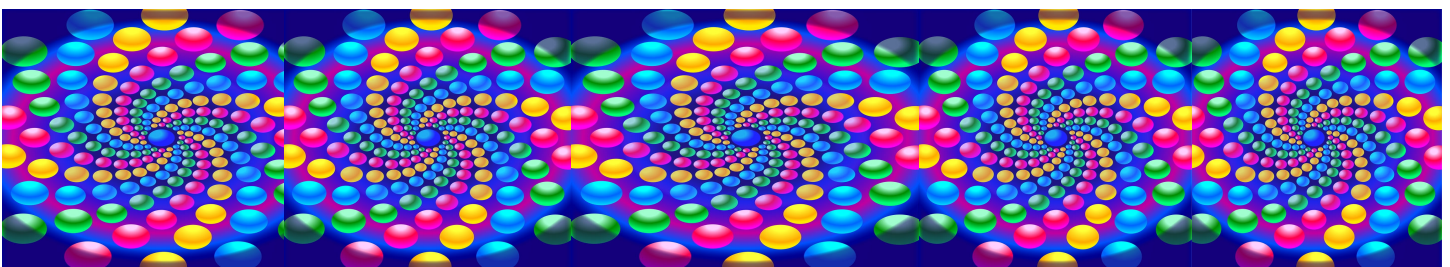
1:00 to 5:00pm EVERY Friday for July and August  
beginning July 8<sup>th</sup>

at

McMan's Kensington Office  
1609C Kensington Road NW

Youth need to be able to get to and from the locations on their own as Mentors  
are not able to transport

**Please Call Torrie Johal for more information at  
403.209.1407**



McMan Youth Family & Community Services  
Presents

# **Youth and Adult Action Club!!**

## **Ages 17 and up**

**This group is open to youth who may have or do have FASD**

**1:00 to 5:00pm EVERY Wednesday for July and August  
beginning July 6<sup>th</sup>**

at

### **Village Square Leisure Centre**

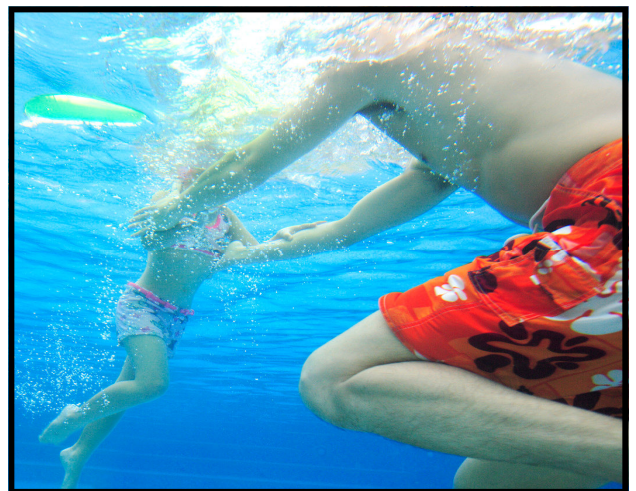
2623 56 Street NE

(403) 366-3900

**Bring your suit and towel!!**

Youth need to be able to get to and from the group on their own  
Admission costs are covered

**Please Call Torrie Johal for more information at  
403.209.1407**



The Pathways to Permanency Program is focused on supporting kinship/ foster families in their journey towards permanency. Our goal in developing this newsletter is to inform and educate those we work with as well as provide a sense of connection, community and even a touch of humor.

If you have suggestions, questions or comments, please let us know.

# ABC

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