

# Same sex couples: equally qualified to parent.

We welcome  
gay and lesbian  
adoptive parents.

## Here's why.

Open Adoption & Family Services is on the cutting edge of offering progressive and inclusive open adoption services.

- OA&FS has welcomed same sex prospective adoptive parents into our infant adoption program since we opened our doors in 1985.
- Approximately 25% of the adoptive placements at OA&FS are with same sex families.
- Typically, our pool of prospective adoptive parents is comprised of 35% same-sex families. These families come to OA&FS from throughout the United States.

Dan Savage, syndicated columnist, author, and regular contributor to NPR's *This American Life*, is an OA&FS adoptive father and active advocate of our agency. To get a firsthand account of same sex adoption through OA&FS, check out his book *The Kid: What Happened After My Boyfriend and I Decided to Go Get Pregnant*.



## What research tells us.

- 25 years of social science research concludes that children raised by (same sex) parents fare well when compared to those raised by heterosexuals. (Donaldson Adoption Institute: *Expanding Resources for Waiting Children II*.)
- There are no systematic differences between gay or lesbian and non-gay or lesbian parents in emotional health, parenting skills, and attitudes toward parenting (Stacey & Biblarz, 2001)
- Evidence shows that children's optimal development is influenced more by the nature of the relationships and interactions within the family unit than by its particular structural form (Perrin, 2002)

# Pregnant?

Text "open" to 971-266-0924  
or call 1-800-772-1115 any time.  
(Text answering available 9 am-5 pm PST M-F)



# Facts about gay parenting.

Numerous well-respected authorities agree that children of same-sex parents are as healthy, happy and well-adjusted as their peers raised by heterosexual parents:

- On the basis of a remarkably consistent body of research on lesbian and gay parents and their children, the American Psychological Association (APA) and other health professional and scientific organizations have concluded that there is no scientific evidence that parenting effectiveness is related to parental sexual orientation. That is, lesbian and gay parents are as likely as heterosexual parents to provide supportive and healthy environments for their children. (APA policy resolution, June 2012.)
- The American Academy of Pediatrics, the nation's leading pediatric authority with 57,000 members, says that children who grow up with gay and/or lesbian parents fare as well in emotional, cognitive, social and sexual functioning as children with straight parents.
- The National Association of Social Workers, with nearly 150,000 members, agrees that research on gay and lesbian parenting shows a total absence of pathological findings in their children.
- The Human Rights Campaign has compiled positions on LGBT parenting from numerous professional organizations. They say "The prevailing professional opinion is that a parent's sexual orientation has nothing to do with his or her ability to be a good parent. The nation's leading child welfare, psychological and children's health organizations also have issued

policy or position statements declaring that a parent's sexual orientation is irrelevant to his or her ability to raise a child."

- In Abbie Goldberg's book "Lesbian and Gay Parents and Their Children", she dispels the notion that children who are raised by gay and lesbian parents are more likely to be bullied. "Vanfraussen, Ponjaert-Kristoffersen and Brewaeys (2002) compared school-aged children from 24 intentional lesbian-mother households with children from 24 heterosexual-parent families and found no differences in the rates of teasing between the two groups."

## Helping build knowledge about LGBTQ adoptive families.

- In 2008, OA&FS was recognized by the Pride Foundation for strengthening and serving the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community.
- OA&FS was a significant contributor to All Children – All Families, an initiative launched by the Human Rights Campaign to develop Promising Practices in Adoption and Foster Care, a Comprehensive Guide to Policies and Practices that Welcome, Affirm and Support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Foster and Adoptive Parents.
- We were also included in the Transition to Adoptive Parenthood Project, a longitudinal study focused on the transition to adoptive parenthood among same sex couples and heterosexual couples.

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