



Books for Ongoing Education Credits

A Child Called It** – Dave Pelzer (2010) 206 Pages

This book chronicles the unforgettable account of one of the most severe child abuse cases in California history

All You Can Ever Know- Nicole Chung (2018) 258 pages

Nicole Chung was born severely premature, placed for adoption by her Korean parents, and raised by a white family in a sheltered Oregon town. From childhood, she heard the story of her adoption as a comforting, prepackaged myth. She believed that her biological parents had made the ultimate sacrifice in the hope of giving her a better life, that forever feeling slightly out of place was her fate as a transracial adoptee. But as Nicole grew up—facing prejudice her adoptive family couldn't see, finding her identity as an Asian American and as a writer, becoming ever more curious about where she came from—she wondered if the story she'd been told was the whole truth.

Another Place at the Table – Kathy Harrison (2004) 256 pages

The startling and ultimately uplifting narrative of one woman's 13-year experience as a foster parent.

Born on a Blue Day** - Daniel Tammet (2007) 256 pages

Bestselling author Daniel Tammet (Thinking in Numbers) is virtually unique among people who have severe autistic disorders in that he is capable of living a fully independent life and able to explain what is happening inside his head.

He sees numbers as shapes, colors, and textures, and he can perform extraordinary calculations in his head. He can learn to speak new languages fluently, from scratch, in a week. In 2004, he memorized and recited more than 22,000 digits of pi, setting a record. He has savant syndrome, an extremely rare condition that gives him the most unimaginable mental powers, much like those portrayed by Dustin Hoffman in the film Rain Man.

Claiming Georgie Tate** - Gigi Amateau (2005) 208 pages

With a vivid narrative voice and an extraordinary cast of characters, first-time author Gigi Amateau tells an unflinching and unforgettable tale of a sensitive girl caught in the trauma of incestuous abuse. But Claiming Georgia Tate is also a joyful story of survival — an ode to the solace of true family, the mercy of strangers, and the possibility of hope and healing.

Evicted** - Matthew Desmond (2016) 403 pages

In Evicted, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads.



Far from the Tree – Robin Benway (2017) 380 pages

Perfect for fans of This Is Us, Robin Benway's beautiful interweaving story of three very different teenagers connected by blood explores the meaning of family in all its forms—how to find it, how to keep it, and how to love it.

Fist Stick Knife Gun: A Personal History of Violence** - Geoffrey Canada (2010) 120 pages

A candid and riveting memoir from the founder of Harlem Children's Zone, taking readers through his Canada in which violence stalked every street corner.

Hey, Kiddo ** - Jarrett Kososcka (2018) 320 pages

The powerful, unforgettable graphic memoir from Jarrett Krosoczka, about growing up with a drug-addicted mother, a missing father, and two unforgettably opinionated grandparents.

Hope's Boy** - Andrew Bridge (2009) 336 pages

After surviving one of our country's most notorious children's facilities, Andrew was thrust into a savagely loveless foster family that refused to accept him as one of their own. Deprived of the nurturing he needed, Andrew clung to academics and the kindness of teachers.

I speak for this Child – Gay Courter (2001) 420 pages

Gay Courter recounts her experiences as a Guardian ad Litem, a volunteer court-appointed advocate for children involved in Florida's court system. Following her first tentative approach to her local Court Appointed Special Advocates program to her more determined efforts, we get an insider's glimpse on this hidden world and learn what it takes to ensure that America's most vulnerable citizens are treated with care and respect. Courter's story is both heartbreaking and heartwarming, and is an inspiration for anyone who has ever looked up from a newspaper and wondered, "What can I do to help?"

Kids in the Syndrome Mix of ADHD, LD, Asperger's, Tourette's, Bipolar and More!: The one stop guide for parents teachers, and other professionals** – Martin Kutscher (2007) 224 pages

Kids in the Syndrome Mix is a concise, scientifically up-to-date, all-in-one guide to the whole range of often co-existing neuro-behavioral disorders in children—from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), obsessive-compulsive disorder, and bipolar disorder, to autistic spectrum disorders, nonverbal learning disabilities, sensory integration problems, and executive dysfunction.

Motherhood So White: A memoir of race, gender, and parenting in America – Nefertiti Austin (2019) 308 pages

Nefertiti Austin shares her story of starting a family through adoption as a single Black woman. In this unflinching account of her parenting journey, Nefertiti examines the history of adoption in the African American community, faces off against stereotypes of single Black moms, and confronts the reality of what it looks like to raise children of color and answer their questions about racism in modern-day America.



One for the Murphys – Lynda Mullaly Hunt (2012) 234 pages

Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child, and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed, and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household.

One Kid at a Time** - Jake Decker (2012) 272 pages

This true, heartwarming story reveals that miracles occur in everyday life. Enjoyable and uplifting, One Kid at a Time will empower--and encourage--everyone who reads it.

Danny had no chance. His mother abandoned him. His father in prison didn't know him. His grandmother beat him so badly that the doctors couldn't count the bruises. He lived nonstop days of unending anxiety, loneliness and terror. Ordered into foster care, the system isolated, drugged and betrayed him.

Out of Harm's Way** - Richard J. Gelles (2017) 200 pages

Despite many well-intentioned efforts to create, revise, reform, and establish an effective child welfare system in the United States, the system continues to fail to ensure the safety and well-being of maltreated children.

Push** - Sapphire (1997) 192 pages

Precious Jones, an illiterate sixteen-year-old, has up until now been invisible to the father who rapes her and the mother who batters her and to the authorities who dismiss her as just one more of Harlem's casualties. But when Precious, pregnant with a second child by her father, meets a determined and radical teacher, we follow her on a journey of education and enlightenment as she learns not only how to write about her life, but how to make it truly her own for the first time.

Shattered Bonds: The color of child welfare – Dorothy Roberts (2009) 354 pages

Shattered Bonds tells this story as no other book has before -- from the perspective of a prominent black, female legal theoretician.

Spilled Milk** - K.L. Randis (2013) 388 pages

Brooke Nolan is a battered child who makes an anonymous phone call about the escalating brutality in her home.

The Body Keeps the Score – Bessel van der Kolk M.D. (2015) 464 pages

Dr. Bessel van der Kolk, one of the world's foremost experts on trauma, has spent over three decades working with survivors. In The Body Keeps the Score, he uses recent scientific advances to show how trauma literally reshapes both body and brain, compromising sufferers' capacities for pleasure, engagement, self-control, and trust. He explores innovative treatments—from neurofeedback and meditation to sports, drama, and yoga—that offer new paths to recovery by activating the brain's natural neuroplasticity.

The Boy who was Raised as a Dog** - Bruce D. Perry and Maia Szalavitz (2017) 433 pages

A renowned psychiatrist reveals how trauma affects children--and outlines the path to recovery.



The Center of Winter** - Marya Hornbacher (2006) 326 pages

The luminous first novel by Marya Hornbacher, the acclaimed author of Wasted: A Memoir of Anorexia and Bulimia, is a moving and passionate story of a death from despair -- and a stricken family's passage through grief toward the hope, solace, and understanding that waits for them somewhere beyond the center of winter.

The Connected Child: Bring hope and healing to your adoptive family (2007) 290 pages

Written by two research psychologists specializing in adoption and attachment, The Connected Child will help you: Build bonds of affection and trust with your adopted child, effectively deal with any learning or behavioral disorders and discipline your child with love without making him or her feel threatened.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time **- Mark Haddon (2004) 226 pages

A modern classic—both poignant and funny—about a boy with autism who sets out to solve the murder of a neighbor's dog and discovers unexpected truths about himself and the world.

The Deepest Well** - Nadine Burke Harris, M.D. (2018) 273 pages

Childhood adversity changes our biological systems, and lasts a lifetime. For anyone who has faced a difficult childhood, or who cares about the millions of children who do, the fascinating scientific insight and innovative, acclaimed health interventions in The Deepest Well represent vitally important hope for preventing lifelong illness for those we love and for generations to come.

The Girls Who Went Away: The hidden history of women who surrendered children for adoption in the decades before Roe V. Wade – Ann Fessler (2006) 368 pages

The astonishing untold history of the million and a half women who surrendered children for adoption due to enormous family and social pressure in the decades before Roe v. Wade.

The Heart Knows Something Different** - Youth Communication (1996) 258 pages

The Heart Knows Something Different collects over three dozen personal narratives by young writers, ages 15 to 20, and provides an insider's account of growing up in "the system."

It Didn't Start with You: How inherited family trauma shapes who we are and how to end the cycle – Mark Wolynn (2017) 256 pages

As a pioneer in the field of inherited family trauma, Mark Wolynn has worked with individuals and groups on a therapeutic level for over twenty years. It Didn't Start with You offers a pragmatic and prescriptive guide to his method, the Core Language Approach.

The Lost Boy: A Foster Child's Search for the Love of a Family** - Dave Pelzer (1997) 340 pages

This is Dave Pelzer's long-awaited sequel to A Child Called "It". In The Lost Boy, he answers questions and reveals new adventures through the compelling story of his life as an adolescent. Now considered an F-Child (Foster Child), Dave is moved in and out of five different homes. He suffers shame and experiences resentment from those who feel that all foster kids are trouble and unworthy of being loved just because they are not part of a "real" family.



The Secret Life of Bees** - Sue Monk Kidd (2003) 352 pages

Set in South Carolina in 1964, The Secret Life of Bees tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted Black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past.

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down** - Anne Fadiman (2012) 368 pages

"The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down," is an account of the unbridgeable gulf between a family of Hmong refugees and their American doctors.

The Struggles to be Strong** - Desetta and Wolin (2019) 192 pages

Through thirty first-person teen narratives, including new stories on social media and gender identity, readers learn about seven resiliencies everyone needs to survive and thrive.

Three Little Words: A Memoir** - Ashley Rhodes-Courter (2008) 321 pages

As her mother spirals out of control, Ashley is left clinging to an unpredictable, dissolving relationship, all the while getting pulled deeper and deeper into the foster care system

Three More Words** - Ashley Rhodes-Courter (2016) 320 pages

In the sequel to the New York Times bestselling memoir Three Little Words, Ashley Rhodes-Courter expands on life beyond the foster care system, the joys and heartbreak with the family she's created, and her efforts to make peace with her past.

To the End of June: The intimate life of American Foster Care – Cris Beam (2013) 337 pages

Beam shows us the intricacies of growing up in the system—the back-and-forth with agencies, the rootless shuffling between homes, the emotionally charged tug between foster and birth parents, the terrifying push out of foster care and into adulthood. Humanizing and challenging a broken system, To the End of June offers a tribute to resiliency and hope for real change.

What Happened to You? Conversations on trauma, resilience and healing – Oprah Winfrey, Bruce Perry (2021) 291 pages

Through deeply personal conversations, Oprah Winfrey and renowned brain and trauma expert Dr. Bruce Perry offer a groundbreaking and profound shift from asking "What's wrong with you?" to "What happened to you?"

What I Carry – Jennifer Longo (2020) 327 pages

A powerful and heartwarming look at a teen girl about to age out of the foster care system.

When the Welfare People Come – Don Lash (2017) 222 pages

A groundbreaking look at the history and politics of the American child welfare system, "When the Welfare People Come" exposes the system in its totality, from child protective investigation to foster care and mandated services, arguing that it constitutes a mechanism of control exerted over poor and working-class parents and children.



White Oleander** - Janet Fitch (2000) 480 pages

The unforgettable story of a young woman's odyssey through a series of Los Angeles foster homes on her journey to redemption.

Why Gender Matters**- Leonard Sax, M.D., Ph.D. (2017) 400 pages

A revised and updated edition (with more than 70% new material) of the evergreen classic about the innate differences between boys and girls and how best to parent and teach girls and boys successfully, with completely new chapters on sexual orientation and on transgender and intersex kids.