



center for  
developmental  
adoption medicine

# SUPPORT

## MISSION

The goals of Developmental Adoption Medicine are to provide pre-adoption guidance and post-adoption services that will guide and support both parents and children through all stages of development.

## INTRODUCTION

The CENTER for DEVELOPMENTAL ADOPTION MEDICINE was created by Dr. Davida Harlem in response to the increasing necessity to unite multiple disciplines to best serve the needs and issues associated with the adopted child. Whether you are approaching parenthood for the first time or are a veteran of sleepless nights, you will soon learn that each child comes to you with unique personality traits and a package of strengths and weaknesses that are reflected in their developmental and learning styles.

The more than 20,000 internationally and domestically adopted children each year bring with them individual and often complex health, medical, developmental, and psychological/behavioral issues. These issues can affect not only the child's development, but impact the entire family. High risk factors including the birth mother's health and care during pregnancy, malnutrition, social and emotional deprivation in institutionalized care, and inadequate medical attention can impact your child's readiness to respond to their new environment.

If you are fortunate enough to have adopted a child, the love and care you provide are the most important and powerful tools in ensuring emotional and physical health. Studies have shown that children, who have experienced periods of deprivation maintain and preserve an adaptive capacity that enables them to thrive in a stable, loving, and guiding home.

EVERY STEP OF THE WAY





# A N S W E R S

TO ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS

## YOUR RESOURCE

Infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school age children can present with a range of issues. We address developmental milestones, attachment and adjustment issues, school readiness and learning styles. We work with the child, the family, additional specialists, the primary care physician, and the school. We hope to be your resource for all questions beginning with, "Is my child okay?"

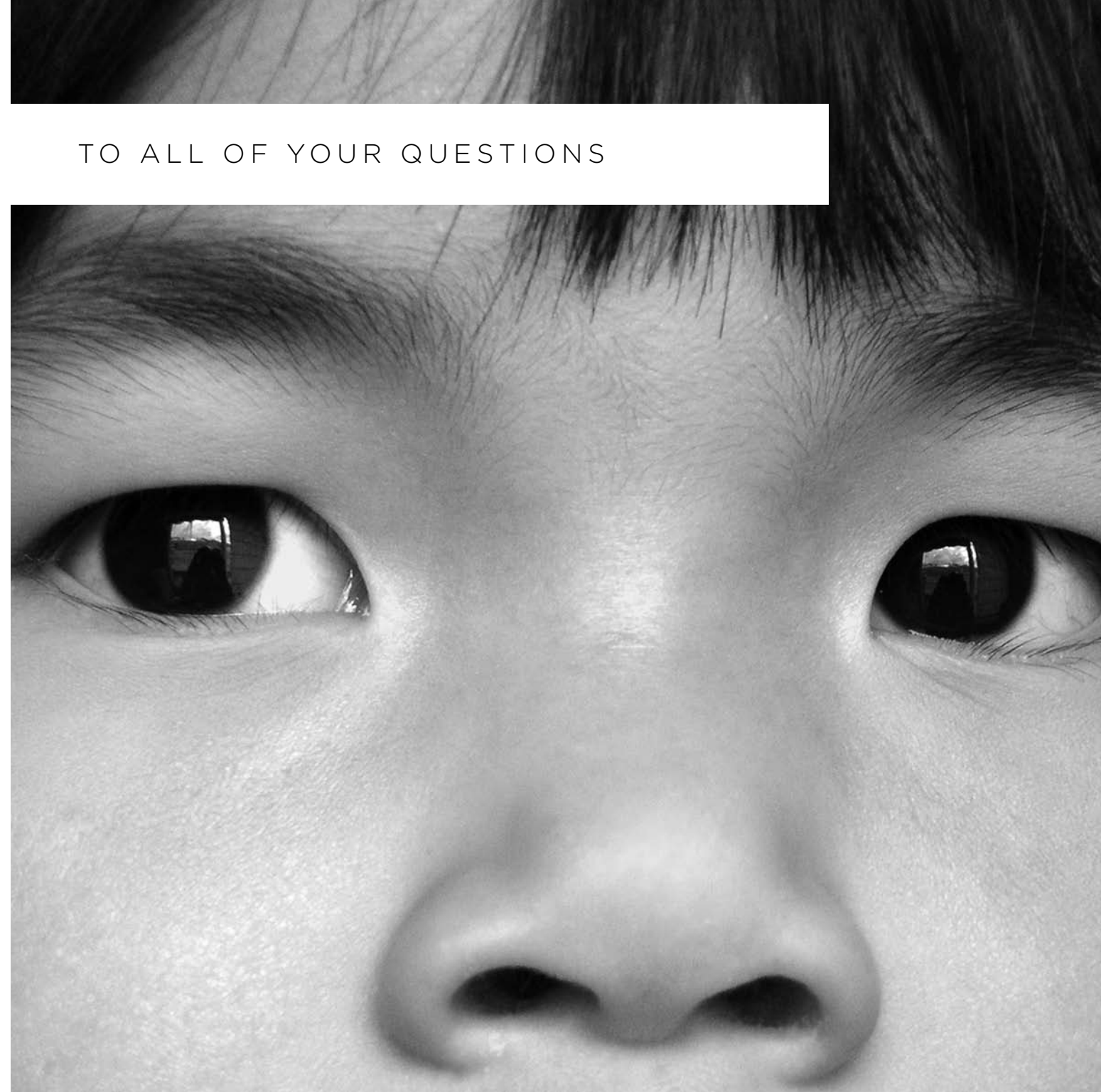
### *Why include us in your child's care?*

We bring together the most current thinking, research, and assessment strategies to reassure you, the parent, that you have done all that is possible to give your child the best start in his or her life.

### *How do we complement the services provided by your child's pediatrician?*

Following a comprehensive medical evaluation from your child's pediatrician, we will address issues associated with social/emotional, cognitive, language and motor skills. Concerns regarding transitional issues of adjustment, attachment, feeding, and sleeping are also addressed. For older children, we offer therapeutic services, psychological evaluations, and strategies for behavioral intervention.

Our strengths lie in both our multidisciplinary approach as well as our ability to coordinate all of the information and services that are available to you and your child. The medical evaluation provided by your child's pediatrician sets the foundation on which we can build an integrated assessment and, if need be, a treatment plan. Something as simple as following a growth curve to the more complex issues of a developmental profile from which all skills and learning emerge, can be managed and guided by our team.





WE HELP TO MAKE THE UNKNOWN

# KNOWN

## *What pre-adoption services do you provide?*

Before adoption and for the prospective parent(s), we offer advice to guide your observations and assist in formulating the questions that you should be asking. Whether your child was born in the United States or abroad, we will help to make the unknown known.

## *When should we schedule our initial developmental evaluation?*

After adoption and following the medical evaluation, we recommend an initial visit within the first couple of months of your child's arrival.

## *How does follow-up work?*

A later follow-up visit is advised in order to track developmental progress, determine any needs for intervention services, and address ongoing adjustment. Subsequent visits will be offered based on specific needs and predicted developmental markers.

## PRE-ADOPTION SERVICES

- Teach prospective parent(s) what to look for and what questions to ask during the pre-adoption process
- Address questions regarding potential developmental and emotional needs
- Provide guidance for the parent(s) in their efforts to minimize transitional issues





EXPERTISE THAT CAN HELP RIGHT

# N O W

## *What post-adoption services are provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers?*

Assessing development is essential when determining the needs of an adopted child. Studies repeatedly show that while most adopted children arrive at their new home with some evidence of delay, appropriate assessment and remediation can facilitate remarkable gains in development and can reduce the possibility of school failures, behavioral problems, and years of frustration for both the child and parent(s). Intervening early provides remedial opportunities during the critical periods of a child's brain development. Our initial developmental profile and follow-up services will help you choose the best course for your child in order to achieve their full developmental potential.

The comprehensive evaluation offers essential information for the parent(s) in order to identify their child's strengths and competencies as well as their weaknesses. Parent(s) are involved in the assessment process and continue as the most powerful change agent in the child's natural environment. Our services will provide you with the expertise that can help now and in the future.

## POST-ADOPTION SERVICES

### DEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATION:


- Cognitive skills
- Speech and language skills
- Social/emotional behavior
- Feeding behavior
- Sleep disturbances
- Adjustment issues including attachment disorders
- Adaptive behavior

### NEUROMOTOR EVALUATION:

- Assessment of muscle tone, primitive reflexes, automatic reactions and movement quality
- Musculo-Skeletal evaluation
- Gross and Fine motor skills
- Sensory Integration profile
- Parent education in support of physical therapy goals

### ADDITIONAL SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:

- Review health related concerns as they impact growth and development
- Consult with nurse on childcare issues such as: eating, sleeping, safety, and psychosocial impact within the family
- Nutritional and growth evaluation



LOOKING AHEAD TO YOUR CHILD'S

# FUTURE

## *What post-adoption services are provided for older or school age children?*

At this time, a psychoeducational evaluation includes an assessment of a child's intellectual strengths, immaturities, academic skill acquisition, and learning styles. When necessary, intervention strategies and tailored treatment plans will be offered. Specific concerns regarding learning disabilities, ADD, ADHD, PDD, autism, fetal alcohol syndrome, and social and emotional issues will be addressed as needed.

We will continue to work with you and your child and will consult with your child's school and other professionals.

Our goal is to provide an individualized and coordinated service that permits you, the parent, to feel "in control" of your child's present and future developmental progress.

## AVAILABLE POST-ADOPTION SERVICES

### PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION:

- Cognitive/intellectual abilities
- Learning differences and disabilities
- Academic achievement
- Visual/perceptual motor abilities
- Attention and concentration issues
- Social/emotional development associated with school, family, and peer groups
- Attachment disorders
- Behavioral problems

### NEUROMOTOR EVALUATION:

- Evaluation as described on previous page
- Optional consultation with school to address functional mobility issues

### ADDITIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES:

- Remedial strategies for developmental delays
- Behavioral management
- Family support services
- Therapeutic intervention



# PROFESSIONALS

## **David Padawer Harlem, Ph.D.**

### *Director - Developmental Psychologist*

Dr. Harlem received her Doctorate in child/school psychology from the University of Pennsylvania with a clinical internship at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in developmental/psychological pediatrics. She holds a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Psychological Services. Her unique experiences and approach to developmental issues earned her former appointments to Children's Seashore House, West Jersey Developmental High Risk Follow-up Program and as a child/adolescent specialist in the state mental health care system. She consults with private and public schools. She has been in private practice for 25 years, specializing in childhood developmental disorders. Dr. Harlem maintains hospital affiliations with Abington Memorial Hospital and Warminster General Hospital. She serves as the developmental psychologist to the Neonatal Follow-up Program at Abington Memorial Hospital.

## **Arlene Verno, P.T.**

### *Physical Therapy Coordinator*

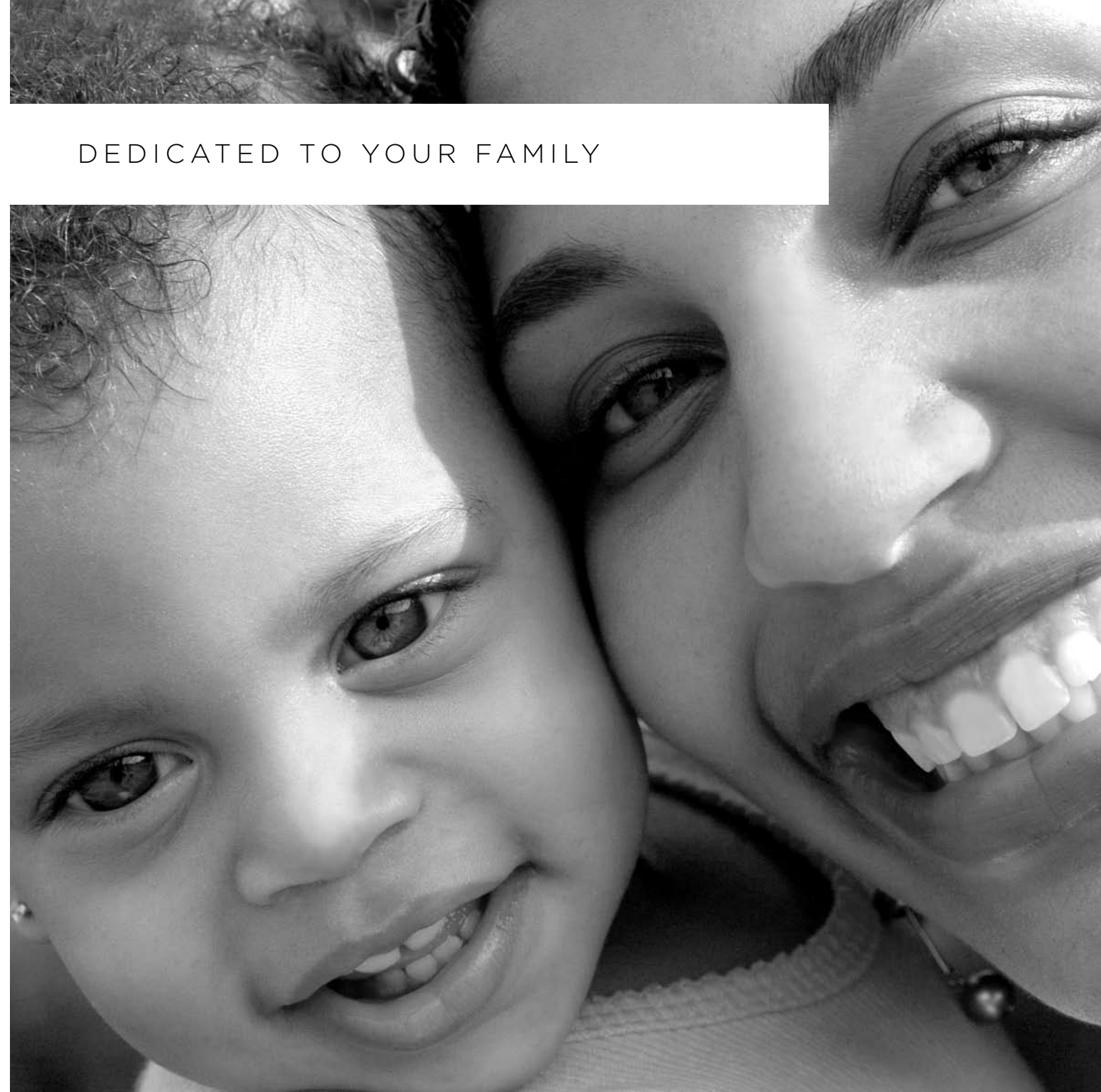
Mrs. Verno is certified in Neurodevelopmental Treatment and is presently pursuing NIDCAP certification. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Pennsylvania. She has been in pediatric practice for over 25 years. Currently, professional appointments include consultative and direct PT services to schools, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Virtua Hospital, and the Virtua Developmental High Risk Follow-up Program. Mrs. Verno coordinates a team of physical therapists specializing in the assessment and treatment of infants and children. Our team has mentored and lectured in the field of neurodevelopment and has worked in a multitude of settings as leaders in their fields of expertise.

## **Gwen Bihn, R.N.**

### *Pediatric Nurse Coordinator*

Throughout her 25 year career devoted to the care of children and their families, Mrs. Bihn gained the respect of her colleagues during her years of work in the Infant Transition Unit of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the Maternal/Child Health division of Suburban General Hospital and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Abington Memorial Hospital. Currently, she coordinates the Abington Memorial Hospital Neonatal Follow-up Program and is a nurse clinician in a private pediatric neurology practice.

DEDICATED TO YOUR FAMILY





DON'T HESITATE TO GET IN

# TOUCH

## CONTACT US

We hope this brochure has answered many of your questions and we look forward to personally speaking with you.

Our services are offered on a fee-for-service basis. A fee schedule will be provided upon your request.

## LOCATION

**Center For Developmental Adoption  
Medicine, Incorporated**

1400 Old York Road  
Suite D  
Abington, Pennsylvania 19001

## TELEPHONE

1 - 888 - 817 - 7303

## FAX

1 - 215 - 947 - 8480

## E - MAIL

[DavidaHarlem@devadoptmed.com](mailto:DavidaHarlem@devadoptmed.com)

## WEB

<http://www.devadoptmed.com>





center for  
developmental  
adoption medicine

1400 OLD YORK ROAD, SUITE D  
ABINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA 19001

[www.devadoptmed.com](http://www.devadoptmed.com)