

CVAA - Around Britain Life Storybook Training

Joy Rees, on the right, recently completed for CVAA an around Britain series of training courses that included Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Joy, an Adoption Support Worker and a Family Futures Associate with 30 years experience of working for London Boroughs and County Councils, has a particular interest in promoting and prioritising permanency and strong family attachments through her sensitive construction of "family friendly" life storybooks. Her knowledge of attunement and attachment theory and understanding of the "inner-world" of the child is reflected in her innovative approach to this work.



Her courses were given exceptionally high evaluation scores. One social worker had to alter her flight bookings to attend, as she had been away. This cost an additional £200 and she said it was worth every penny! Another said she was "inspired" after hearing Joy. Jeanne Kaniuk, responsible for the CVAA training

programme, said she was delighted that the courses had been within easy travelling distance of all the Voluntary Adoption Agencies located around Britain as this fulfilled a long term aim of CVAA UK.

Joy has recently written a book, "Life Story Books for Adopted Children. A Family Friendly Approach". Available in March 2009*, the book has been described as "an easy to read, jargon free, bite sized guide. Ideal for busy social workers and adoptive parents". Delegates to the courses had been privileged to receive some of the material early via the comprehensive handouts Joy generously gave out.

Joy commented that, "I was well received and warmly welcomed at all of the venues. I thoroughly enjoyed delivering these CVAA training sessions, and it was wonderful to meet so many committed and enthusiastic SWs from all around the country".

Responding to requests from delegates at these courses CVAA will be running some similar courses for adopters and practitioners in the autumn of 2009. The first date that has been finalised is October 19th and the session will be at St Francis' Children's Society in Milton Keynes.

*Life Story Books for Adopted Children. A Family Friendly Approach is published by Jessica Kingsley and costs £13.99. ISBN 978 1 84310953 2
More details can be found on www.jkp.com