

OCTOBER 2026

TBRI® Newsletter

Trust-Based Relational Intervention®
The Baby Fold - Adoption Support and Preservation



WHEN “WON’T” REALLY MIGHT MEAN “CAN’T”

Sometimes a child’s behavior can look like “won’t.” They won’t listen. They won’t get dressed. They won’t follow directions. They won’t calm down. They won’t stop arguing. But what if, in that moment, they actually can’t?

Children who have experienced stress, trauma, or disrupted relationships may have a harder time accessing skills when they are overwhelmed. What looks like defiance, or “won’t”, may actually be a sign that a child is dysregulated, overwhelmed, or missing a skill they need.

Before assuming a child is choosing not to cooperate, or “won’t”, consider:

- Are they regulated enough to do what I’m asking?
- Have I given them the skills and support that they need?
- Is the expectation realistic for them right now?
- Would connection, food, movement, or a calming activity help them?

Try this:

Instead of: “You know how to do this. Why won’t you?”

Try: “I can see this is hard right now. Let’s figure it out together.”

You can still hold boundaries and expectations while offering the support a child needs to be successful. Remember, seeing “can’t” instead of “won’t” doesn’t mean there are no consequences or limits. It means we pause long enough to understand the need behind the behavior, and then help the child build the skills to succeed.

Check out this resource:

[The Baffling Behavior Show podcast episode-
“On Purpose” Behavior](#)

Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) Classes and Caregiver Support

Join our 12-week virtual training designed for caregivers and professionals working with children from hard places. Learn trauma-informed strategies to help children heal, grow, and thrive.

Tuesday evenings, 5:30-7:00 pm
September 22nd - December 15th

[Click here to register!](#)

Contact- bdeclerck@thebabyfold.org

Current/Ongoing Parent Support Groups at The Baby Fold:

Wednesday Evening Group (virtual):

Provides education and support related to parenting, trauma, and self-care within the context of adoption and foster care.

Meets 2x a month.

Contact- amunster@thebabyfold.org

Wednesday Noon Group (virtual):

Provides education and support related to parenting, trauma, and self-care within the context of adoption and foster care.

Meets 2x a month.

Contact- vfinkill@thebabyfold.org

Dads Sharpen Dads (virtual):

A safe place for dads to share their unique challenges, as well as education and support for each other to be their very best.

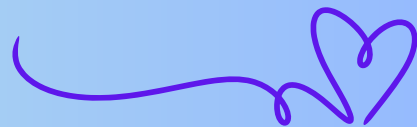
Meets 2x a month.

Contact- ksummers@thebabyfold.org

Contact Krista
at kreichert@thebabyfold.org or
309-557-1149 with any questions about
ASAP services, groups, or TBRI.

Follow ASAP on our [Facebook page!](#)





THE BABY FOLD'S

Parent Support Group

2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Held Virtually from 6:15–7:15 pm

**OUR PARENT GROUP OFFERS SUPPORT AND
EDUCATION FOR PARENTS FOR FAMILIES
FORMED THROUGH FOSTER CARE,
ADOPTION, AND GUARDIANSHIP**



**"You cannot lead a child
to a place healing, if you
do not know the way
yourself."**

~ Dr. Karyn Purvis



**Contact: rhadden@thebabyfold.org or
amunster@thebabyfold.org for more information
and links**





THE BABY FOLD'S **VIRTUAL PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
12:00-1:00 PM

SUPPORT AND EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES FORMED
THROUGH ADOPTION AND GUARDIANSHIP

EMAIL MELISSA AT MLEGENDRE@THEBABYFOLD.ORG FOR
MORE INFORMATION & LINK TO MEETINGS

“You cannot lead a child to a place of healing
if you do not know the way yourself.”
– Dr. Karyn Purvis



The Baby Fold

DADS SHARPEN DADS

"AS IRON SHARPENS IRON, SO ONE MAN SHARPENS ANOTHER"

Our Dads Support Group
is virtually hosted on the
1st and 3rd Monday
evening of the month
from 7:15 – 8:15 pm.

"If we can communicate
to our children, 'It's me
and you against history',
then we have a strong
place to begin."



Contact Us

Email Ken Summers at ksummers@thebabyfold.org to sign up