



Educational Seminars

Our seminar "Adoption Essentials" is for both International and Domestic adoption preparation. We have online seminars (available anytime) as well as 2 live seminar opportunities each year. Topics include:

- The Essentials of Adoption Medicine
- Expectations and Realities: Emotional and Behavioral Needs of International and Domestic Adoptees
- The Developmental Needs of International and Domestic Adoptees
- Adoption Simulation
- AC Parent Panel Question/Answer
- Preparing for International Travel
- Bonding and Attachment
- School and Education Issues
- Identity Issues

"The course exceeded our expectations and opened our eyes to things we never knew."

– Seminar Attendee/Parent



Adoption Clinic

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Children's South
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Keep up with the Adoption Clinic by signing up for our quarterly newsletters at adoption@uabmc.edu



Our mission is to serve the initial and ongoing medical, developmental and emotional needs of adoptive and foster families from around the world.

The Need

Each year hundreds of children find a forever family.

Through our interdisciplinary clinic that includes pediatric medicine, occupational therapy, sensory and feeding therapy and family therapy, we provide comprehensive medical and case management services to assist parents in their journey through adoption. In addition, we offer help for foster families in the US who are serving these children prior to reunification or adoption.



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Pre-Adoption Services

Our [pre-adoption medical review](#) is aimed at educating prospective parents about the unique medical and developmental issues of children adopted domestically and internationally.

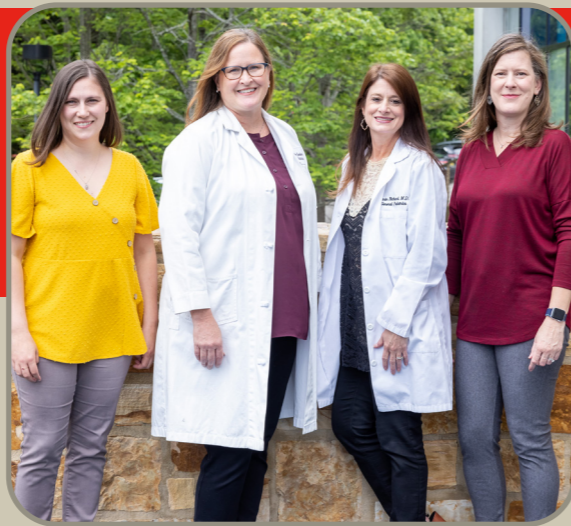
You will have access to the knowledge base of a comprehensive pediatric healthcare center. Our physicians can readily call on medical experts in genetics, psychology, infectious disease, gastroenterology, neurology and other subspecialties as needed.

After receiving information about the child, you can send it to our physicians who specialize in international adoption. They will evaluate the medical information on the child and/or birth mother and review any photos and/or videos you may have. These evaluations provide:

- Discussion of the influence of the birth mother's risk factors on the child
- Assistance in determining if all information usually provided from your child's country has been included
- Explanations of medical terms and help in understanding possible diagnosis and long term care needs
- Help in determining other questions for your agency in order to fill in the gaps
- Evaluation of physical features and reported anomalies
- Evaluation of the child's developmental progress

Our [on-call and prescription services](#) are provided to families who have used our other pre-adoption services. Our physicians will be available to consult on any medical or behavior issue your [new child](#) may have while traveling.

We offer [Phone Consults](#) for families who need help filling out their agency's special needs form. These can be emotionally difficult to fill out and we can give more information on each special need to make this process easier. Phone Consults are also given for a variety of other needs for families who have extensive questions or concerns about their child and are not able to come into clinic.



Post-Adoption Services

After returning home, we offer full medical, developmental and emotional assessments for both recent adoptees and those who have been home for years. Services include:

- Review of medical reports
- Physical examination of the child
- Lab screening and review of results
- Vaccine recommendations
- Collaboration with your pediatrician/subspecialist
- Interview with our family therapist to discuss adjustment, sleep, unusual behaviors and attachment
- Full developmental assessment and recommendations on how to help your child "catch up"
- Referrals to other specialists as needed
- Family/Child therapy services to address attachment, behaviors and trauma
- Interdisciplinary Consultation- a 2 hour comprehensive review of concerns with all professionals together (for adoptees who have been home for a while and are struggling with behaviors and/or learning)



Team

Carin Kiser, MD

Board-Certified General Pediatrician,
Medical Director

Jennifer Chambers, MD, MPH & TM

Board-Certified General Pediatrician
International Adoptive Parent

Heather Schuck, LGSW

Family Therapist - International Adoptive Parent

Amy Elmore, BS, OTR/L

Developmental Specialist and Feeding Specialist
Certified In Sensory Integration Therapy & Therapeutic
Listening

Jessica Ward, MBA

Clinical Program Coordinator II

Lynn Zimmerman, CA

International Adoptive Parent

A message from our team

The Adoption Clinic is a non-profit specialty clinic staffed by professionals with a love children in need of forever families. Most of us have worked in orphanages or adoption agencies, have adopted or have been adopted ourselves.

Our clinic has been in operation for over 20 years now, serving children adopted from 55 countries including: China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, South Korea, Peru, Guatemala, Vietnam, India, Thailand, Ethiopia, Uganda and many, many more.



Make a difference!

Much of the funding for our clinic is obtained through donations. We are committed to keeping costs as low as possible for families while continuing our work to help children around the world. No gift is too small. If you are interested

in giving, please contact adoption@uabmc.edu or 205.638.6964.

