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Response 2- February 4th, 2015

Throughout the book there were many cases of Reactive Attachment Disorder, which is a serious condition in which infants and children have difficulties establishing connections and healthy attachments to parents or anyone willing to care for them. It often happens when children are bounced around from home to home with no stability. Children who suffer from Reactive Attachment Disorder are rarely shown love or affection, and therefore tend to not react at all or react badly when care is given. Keisha suffered from Reactive Attachment Disorder. Kiesha was fifteen- months- old when her mother Lucinda decided she couldn’t take care of her anymore. She had witnessed her mother get physically abused by her boyfriend and substance abuse while living with Lucinda. She was constantly left alone in her playpen and would sit in wet diapers for long periods of time. When Kiesha’s mother decided she couldn’t handle the responsibility of her daughter anymore she was put into foster care. Kiesha would sit and play by herself and not interact with anyone around her when placed in a loving foster family’s home. The foster family and caseworkers frequently thought of Kiesha’s actions as a shy personaility. But, there were underlying developmental and emotional problems after being neglected at such a young age. I believe that I would be willing to foster a child like Keisha. Although she did have developmental issues that needed to be taken care of with therapy I would be more than willing to take her to the needed sessions. I think that I could handle a child like Kiesha that suffered from Reactive Attachment disorder in the way that she did, compared to some children who are filled with rage, anger, and violence. Faith was another child mentioned in the book that suffered from a similar case of Reactive Attachment Disorder as Kiesha did. Faith was left in a baby swing the first seven months of her life. She was given an occasional bottle propped up by a blanket, but otherwise was left with no one to interact with and no one to encourage her to communicate or move in any way. When placed in foster care she had a very hard time making a connection with others. She wouldn’t want to be touched by any one and wouldn’t even accept a simple hug. She showed no signs of emotion. She was developmentally delayed in the areas of mobility, cognition, and speech. I believe that in this scenario it would be very difficult to foster a child with such developmental problems, but I do believe it could end up being a very positive experience. I think that getting Faith help, which eventually was done by foster care, could help her progress tremendously. I would be willing to take this step as a foster parent if it meant that I could potentially change a young girl’s life. Jerome, on the other hand, is a child that I am not sure I would be able to handle as a foster parent. Jerome was one of eight siblings that were put into foster care by their mother Denise. Jerome was six years old and had serious behavior issues. He was very violent and cussed at any adult who tried to interact with him. He was kicked out of school and had a long history of destructiveness and was filled with fury. I am not a person that handles any of those personalities well. I do not think I would be able to discipline and attempt to care for Jerome in an effective way. It would be very hard to try to reason with a child who has had such a rough past filled with tragic experiences that some couldn’t even begin to fathom. I tend to be a person to give in a lot and am not very stern with children. I think that Jerome needed someone that would discipline him in an appropriate way, but also be able to accept his actions and help him to overcome the obstacles brought about by his past.

Reading this book made gain so much respect for families that are willing to adopt and foster children, especially those who have suffered from abuse. I think that after reading *Invisible Kids* it made me see many different aspects of foster care and how it does have many pros and cons but there are many opportunities for any individual to change the negative aspects. I think that in the future I would definitely consider fostering children for a period of time. I believe that it would be a great experience being able to give children an opportunity to better their lives. I think it is very important for individuals to step up and volunteer to take on the millions of children who suffer from abuse every day and have no one else to turn to for support and guidance.

Questions for Holly:

1. Have you ever thought about fostering? Isn’t it hard to have the job that you have and not want to help them on a personal basis?
2. (I am in nursing) What are nurses’ interactions with Children’s Services and are there positions through CPS or ProKids that work with abused children (not in a hospital setting)?
3. Have you had instances where you believed a home to be safe and it ended up not being safe?
4. How and where can I volunteer my time around the Cincinnati area helping abused children?