

CCAA DOCUMENT PROCESSING

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International Family Services

Helping families adopt children from China, Ethiopia, India, Ukraine, Russia, and cross-cultural within the U.S.

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TB Test Fee Increase

Since July 1, 2009, all Chinese adoptees ages 2-14 years have been screened for TB at their Consular Medical exam.

Beginning in January 2013, the fee for such testing will increase. The new charge will be 1300RMB or about \$207USD (up from \$80.)

This applies to all children between 2 -14 years of age and all others whom the physicians determine require further TB testing.

Currently the visa medical staff use PPD (purified protein derivative) for the TB skin test but that will no longer be available on the Chinese market. IGRA (Interferon Gamma Release Assay) will be the new method of evaluation.

IFS staff will factor the increase into your final cost list, to be wired to China before you leave to pick up your child.

Chinese and U.S. Consulate Holiday Schedule 2013

New Year	January 1-2
MLK Jr. birthday	January 21
Lunar New Year	February 9-13
Presidents' Day	February 18
Tomb Sweeping Festival	April 4-6
Intn'l Labor Day	April 29-May 1
Memorial Day	May 27
Dragon Boat Festival	June 10-12
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 2
Mid-Autumn Fest.	Sept. 19-21
National Day	October 1-3
Columbus Day	October 14
Veterans' Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 28
Christmas Day	December 25



IFS CHINA STATS

Families home from China in 2012 - 20
Chinese children home -24
Families adopting more than 1 child - 4
Repeat families - 3
Total girls - 20
Total boys -4
Youngest arrival - 14 months old
Oldest arrival - 13 years, 11.9 months
Median age at adoption - 1.9 years old



Chinese Proverbs

- Genuine gold fears no fire.
- One foot cannot stand on two boats.
- Do not kill a hen for her eggs.
- Rivers and mountains are more easily changed than a man's character.

Then...and Now!

Sites to See

China Little Flower
www.littleflowerprojects.org
 (special care for very sick children)

China Sprout
<http://www.chinasprout.com/tv> (weekly television guide for all shows with a Chinese flavor; new every week!)

All-China Women's Federation
www.womenofchina.cn

Half the Sky Foundation
www.halfthesky.org (Ask for a free newsletter)

CafePress
www.cafepress.com/adoption (for adoption gifts, shirts)

China activities for kids
<http://china.mrdonn.org/>

Asia for Kids
www.afk.com
 (Ask for or download a free catalog)



Max



Katee Qing

Chinese Almond Cookies

Prep: 20 min. Bake: 15 min.
 Yield: 30 Servings

Ingredients

1 cup butter, softened
 1 cup sugar
 1 egg
 1 teaspoon almond extract
 3 cups all-purpose flour
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/4 cup sliced almonds
 1 egg white
 1/2 teaspoon water

Directions

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar. Beat in egg and extract. Combine the flour, baking soda and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture. Roll into 1-in. balls. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets. Flatten with a fork. Sprinkle with almonds. In a small bowl, beat egg white and water. Brush over cookies. Bake at 325° for 14-16 minutes or until edges and bottoms are lightly browned. Cool for 2 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks. Yield: about 5 dozen.

Would you like to share
 ... **Now** pictures?
 Just email them to
kim@ifservices.org

And the answer is...

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY SERVICES



Night Snow

Surprised that my quilt
and pillow were cold,

I see that now the
window's bright again.

Deep in the night, I
know the snow is thick,

I sometimes hear the
sound as bamboo
snaps.

~Bai Juyi
(772-846 AD)

Question: My Chinese daughter acts like anything Chinese is horrible: language, music, food, anything! We are trying to incorporate Chinese culture into our family traditions and she won't have anything to do with it. What is wrong? What can I do?!

Answer: So, first thing: breathe in a sigh of relief. There is nothing wrong with your daughter. And nothing wrong with your parenting either! Your daughter's attitude is actually fairly common – and not just amongst Chinese adoptees. We see this in kids from other countries, too.

Second thing: I can share a few things but since I'm not an expert, do look around those who can address this topic better than I.

There are several reasons your daughter might seem to reject all things Chinese.

- She's shy and the extra attention embarrasses her. We tend to see issues as adoption-oriented. But it may just be her personality.

- She doesn't want to feel 'different' and including Chinese things makes her feel different. She already looks different than most of those around her. Adding Chinese culture to her life makes her feel more so.

- She likes her new life and wants to feel like it *always has been* her life. We saw a lot of this in our Russian hosting program where the children were 6 years old and older when adopted. The adoptive parents had helpfully provided Russian mentors or Russian physicians so the kids could feel more comfortable. Often the children would refuse to speak Russian. Some kids refused to even *look* at the helpful Russian.

- She's a teenager and struggling with identify issues. Remember how awful it was to 'stand out' in any way when you were in school? And if you did fit in, how scared you were of accidentally doing something that might make you one of the outsiders? It was agony. What your daughter is experiencing may be nothing more than normal teenage angst.

Emotions aren't neat and tidy things that fit into one category or another. Your daughter might seem angry or resentful or sad or embarrassed about her two cultures. And as a parent, you might feel very sad that she seems to be rejecting her birth culture.

Support her and keep the Chinese things in low profile or out of sight if she prefers it that way for now. Kids with loving, accepting parents are usually able to become comfortable and proud of being a child of two cultures.

Don't be afraid to speak to a professional about it if you feel very concerned about your daughter. A professional will know whether your daughter has serious problems or is simply coming to terms with her two cultures.

~ All best, Kim



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Chinese Pinyin: sheng dan kuai le

圣诞快乐

Yours for China and for a very Merry Christmas!

Kim for Bob, Marvin, and all the IFS family.