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Author close to teens in her book

November 29, 2007

By **J.T. MORAND** Staff Writer

Suzanne Slade feels a special connection to the subjects in her new book, *Adopted: The Ultimate Teen Guide*, about issues adopted teens face, such as identity.

Slade, the author of more than 50 books for children, is an adoptive mother who thought there weren't enough resources for adopted teens when she was raising her child.

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"I felt it was a great project that would serve the adopted community well," she said.

Adolescence is a difficult time, but the issue of identity is compounded for teens who are adopted, she said.

Her daughter, Christina, is 14 years old, about the age when adopted children start dealing with identity and wondering about their birth parents. Slade and her husband Mike adopted Christina when she was 3 days old in 1993 after dealing with infertility issues.

Slade said she and Mike decided when Christina was 9, to open their daughter's relationship to her birth mother.

"We saw no reason not to," Slade said. "It helped her feel loved on all ends."

Today, Christina isn't struggling with her identity any more than any other teen does, she added.

Slade gave birth to a boy a year after adopting Christina, but her passion to help adopted children did not diminish.

"I want them to have their issues resolved by the time they're adults," she said.

You can learn more about Slade on her Web site, www.suzanneslade.com.

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