



Transcending Differences in Placement

**OCWTP
FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP CARE, AND
ADOPTION PRESERVICE TRAINING**

UNDERSTAND ME

What's beneath the clothes, the hair, the smile?

Look deep inside to find me.

The lost and lonely girl inside,

That hides deep inside me.

Please don't judge me for what you see.

'Cause I don't look and act like you remember,

I can only be me.

Look closer, pay attention.

Forget about the fake smile you see.

Can you see what lies inside of me?

The girl with a big heart,

The loving one that constantly gets hurt

So please don't judge me by my looks.

Take a step closer.

Can you understand my twisted mind?

Can you find the real me?

I hide so quickly.

Adreanna, age 18

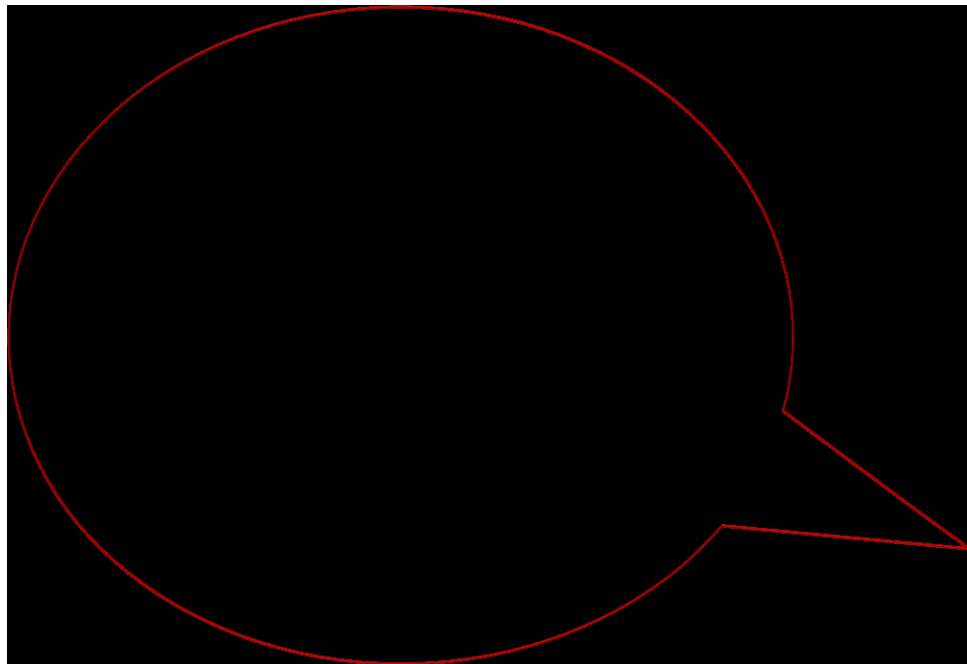
From: My Voice, My Life, My Future

You will be able to:

- ✓ Explain how flexibility in caregiving and adoptive parenting contributes to respecting differences
- ✓ Identify ways a family can help a child feel welcomed and respected for who they are
- ✓ Identify ways a child who looks like the caregiver or adoptive family can still be different from that caregiver or family
- ✓ Explain how a foster and adoptive caregiver or adoptive parent can help prepare their community for a new child

Rules of the Road







3

MINUTES

RULES

1. Are any of the rules you listed different from the ones in the home you grew up in?
2. What rules do you flex to make guests feel welcomed?

**“Help a Child
Discover His Own
Self-Identity”**



Dauntae



Culture

- Values
- Beliefs
- Attitudes
- Traditions

Other Group Memberships

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Sexual Orientation
- Socio-Economic
- Other Groups

Individual

- Circumstances
- Experiences
- Traits



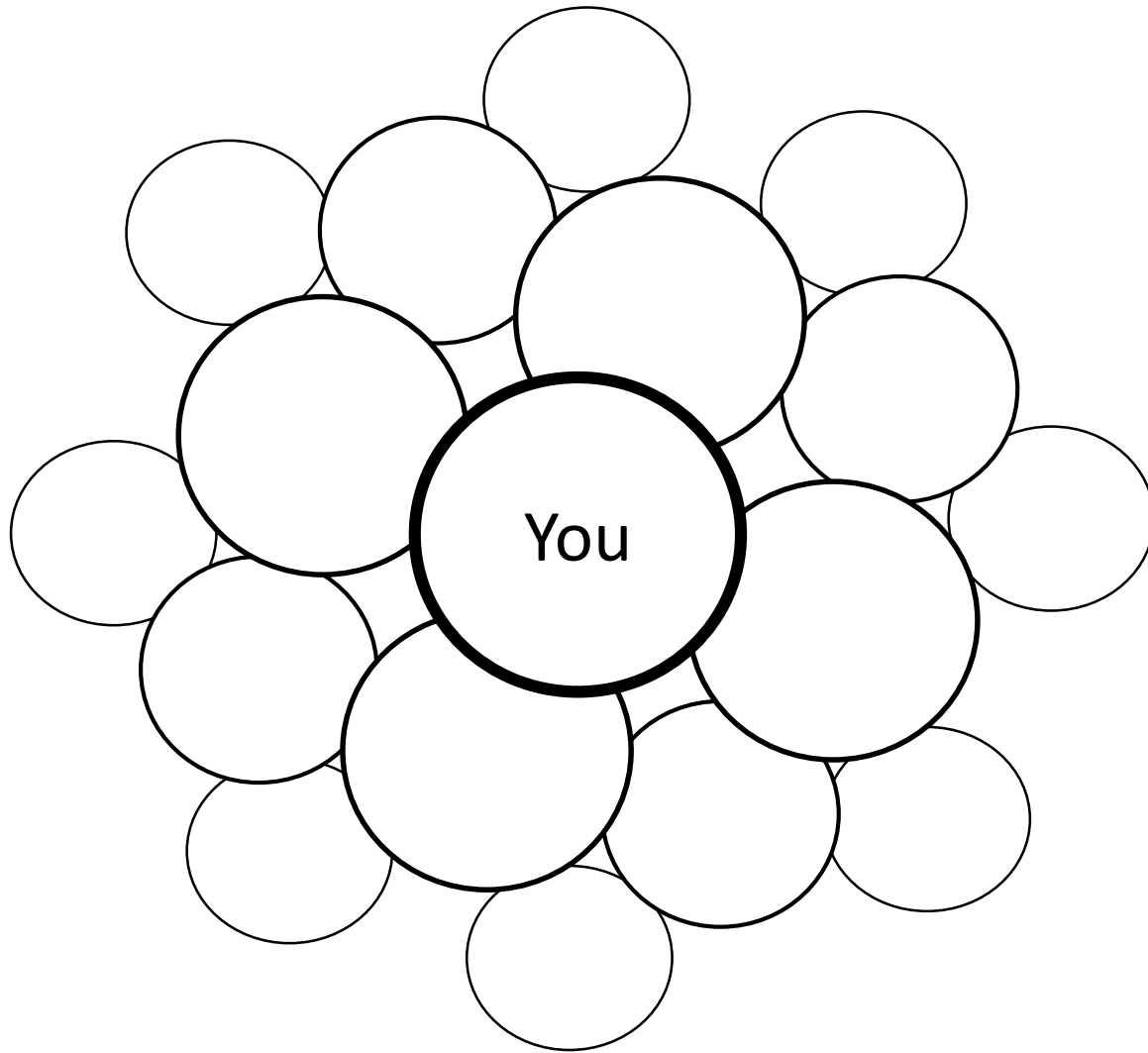
Rita's Interview

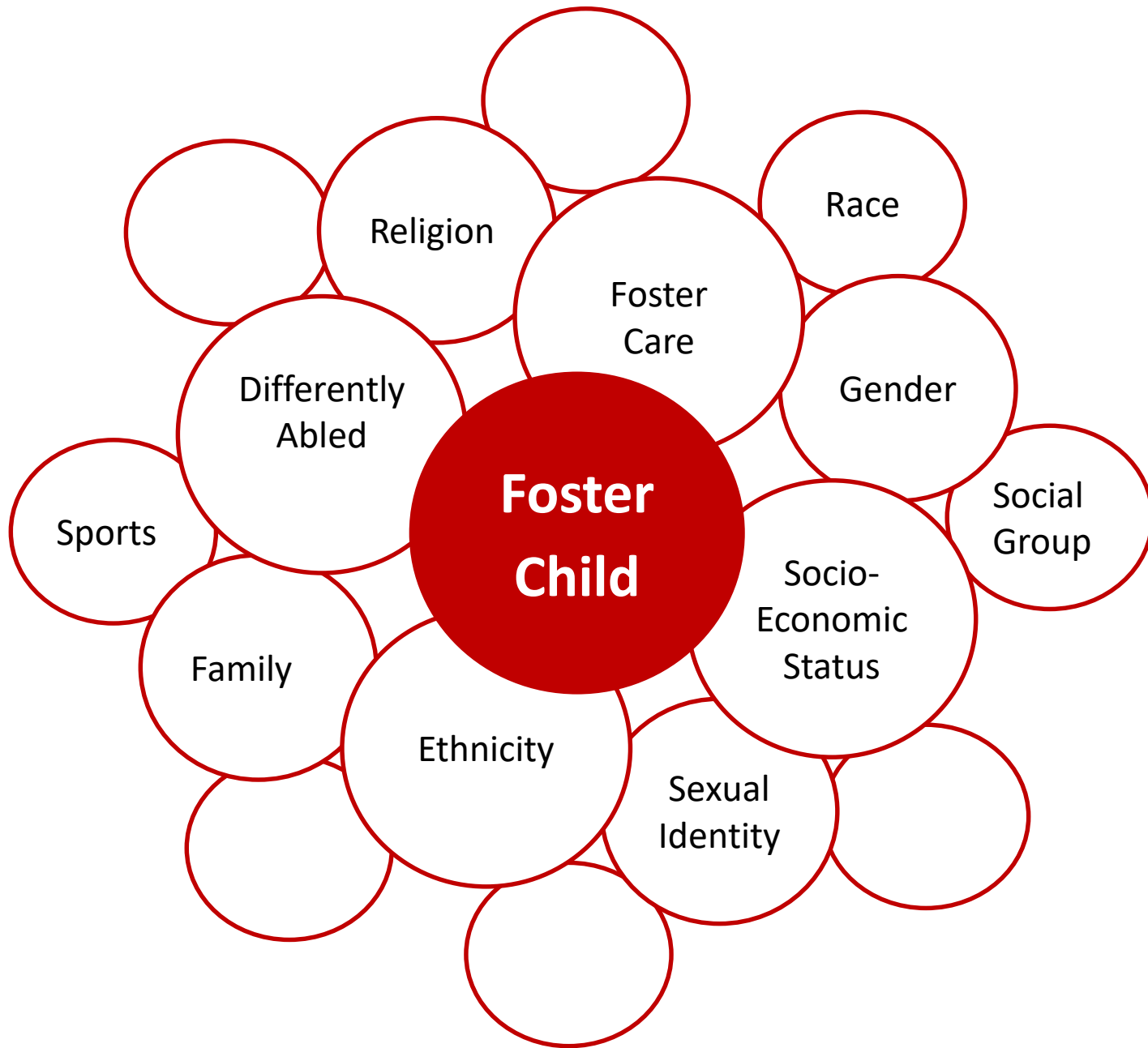
"Assumptions"

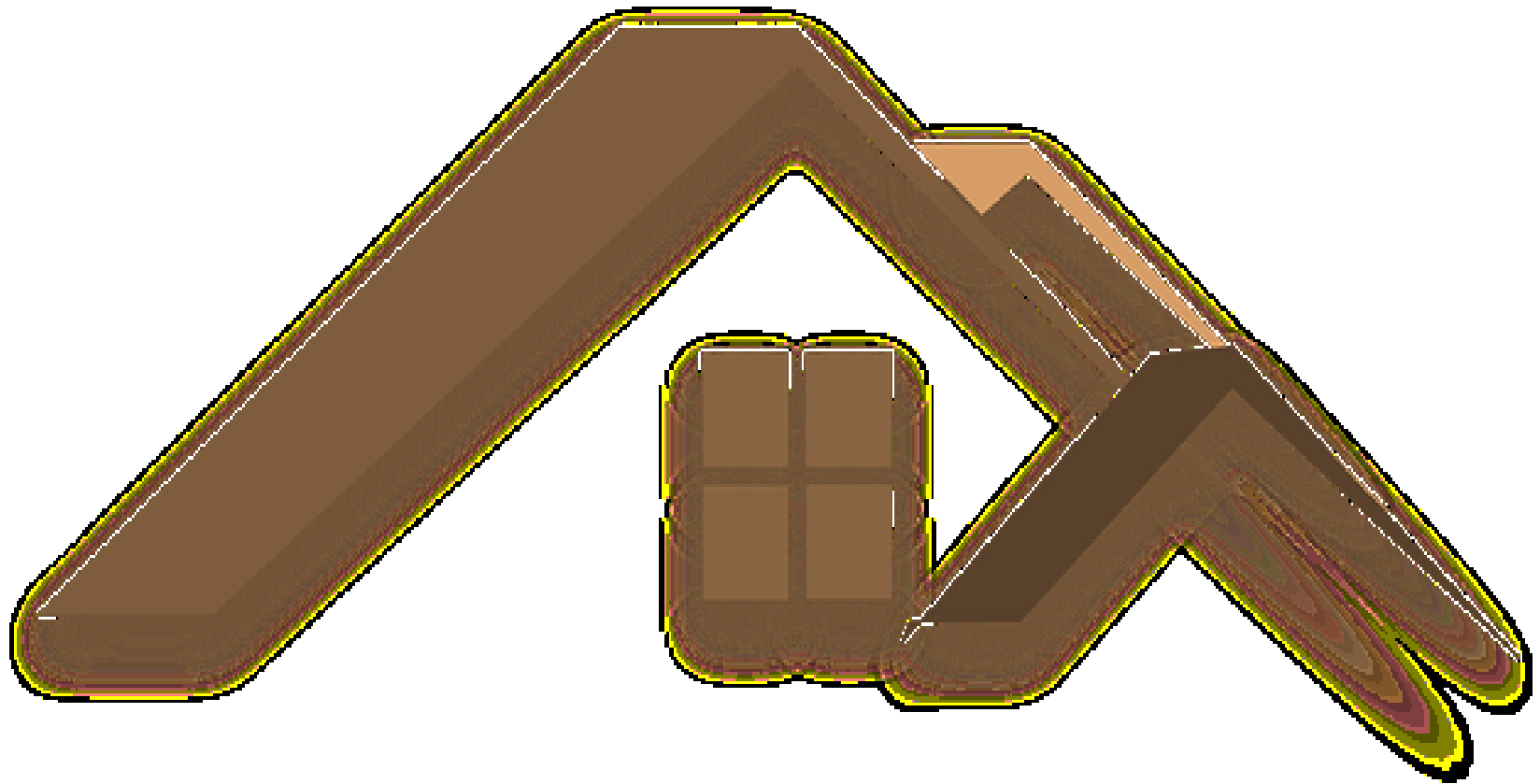


From: Ortega, R. M. & Coulborn-Faller, K. (November 2011) Webinar: Cultural Humility and Management in Child Welfare. National Child Welfare Workforce Institute.

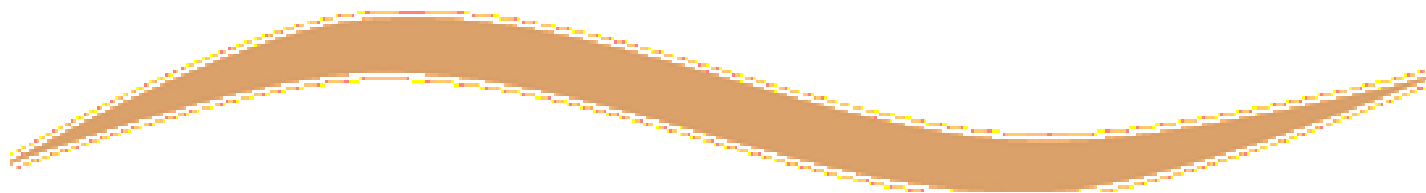
Collective Membership





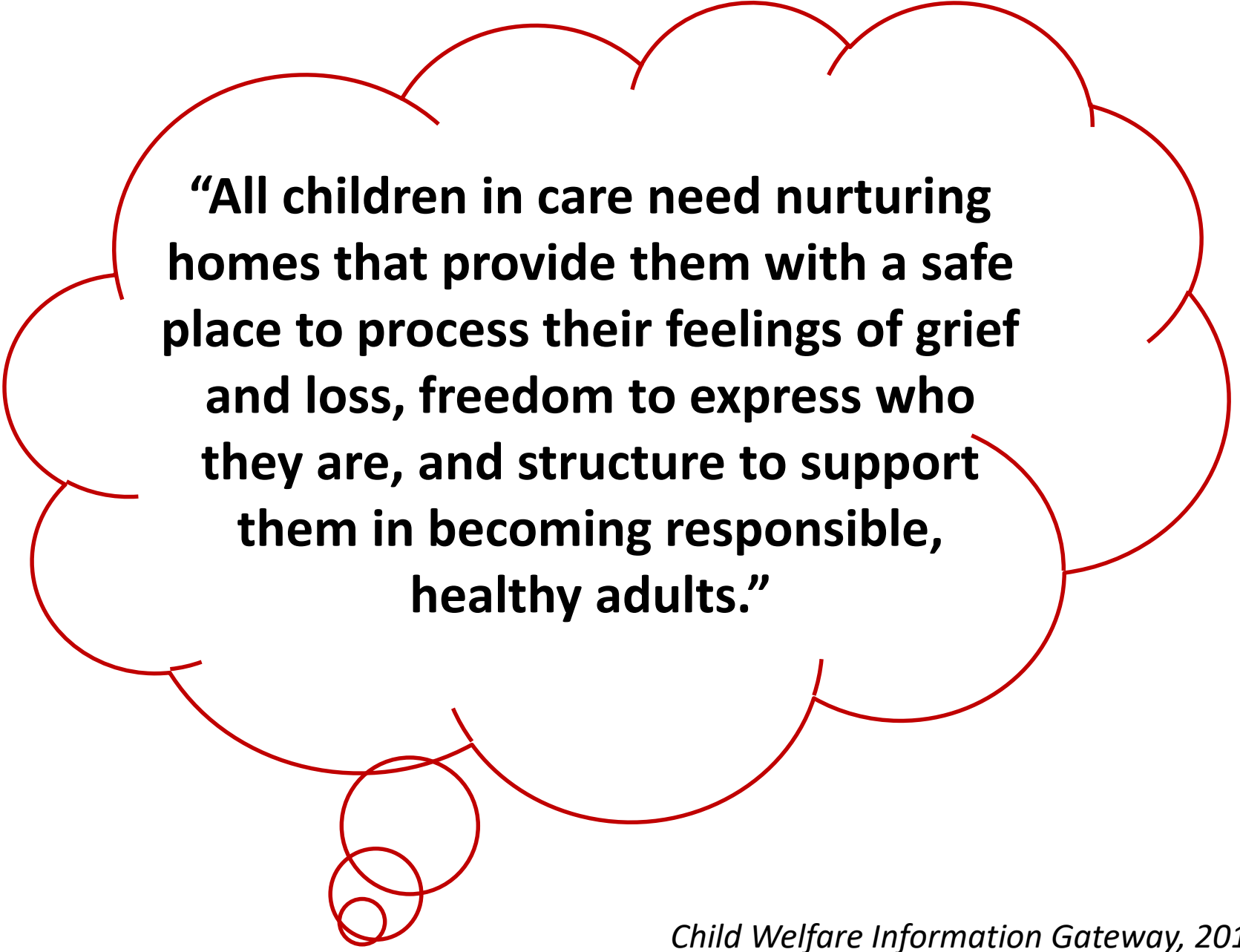


Preparing Your Home



A red square with a black border containing the number 2 in a stylized black font with a white outline.

Help your child to feel safe



“All children in care need nurturing homes that provide them with a safe place to process their feelings of grief and loss, freedom to express who they are, and structure to support them in becoming responsible, healthy adults.”





Entry Way

Space of first
impressions

Take time to allow trust to build

Agree on names

Affirm child's primary family relationships

Don't show status differentiation

Make room in your home

Family Room

How to
relate to
each other
and the
outside
world



Embrace values

Set expectations

**Create an environment that values
and reflects diversity**

Establish “together time”

Decide on non-negotiable rules



Kitchen & Dining Room

Expectations
and practices
around

Dietary preferences, needs, and restrictions

Eating schedule

Table rituals

Table manners

Expectations

Eating between meals

Bedroom

Expectations
and rules around
sleeping
behaviors and
appropriate use
of the bedroom
space



Sleeping arrangements

Acceptable bed attire

Lights on/lights off/night lights

Bedtime schedules

Bedtime rituals

Visitors or overnight guests

Orderliness

Bedroom décor

Non-negotiables



Bathroom

Issues around
hygiene, privacy,
and personal
presentation

Hygiene

Privacy and modesty

Habits around cleaning up after oneself

Hair

Clothing

Other self-expression parameters

community





Be an advocate for your child



Help child maintain positive sense of self

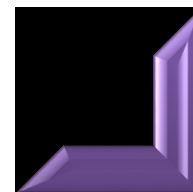
Pay attention to prejudice and discrimination

Don't hesitate to talk about racial issues



Rita's Interview

"Community"



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Schools



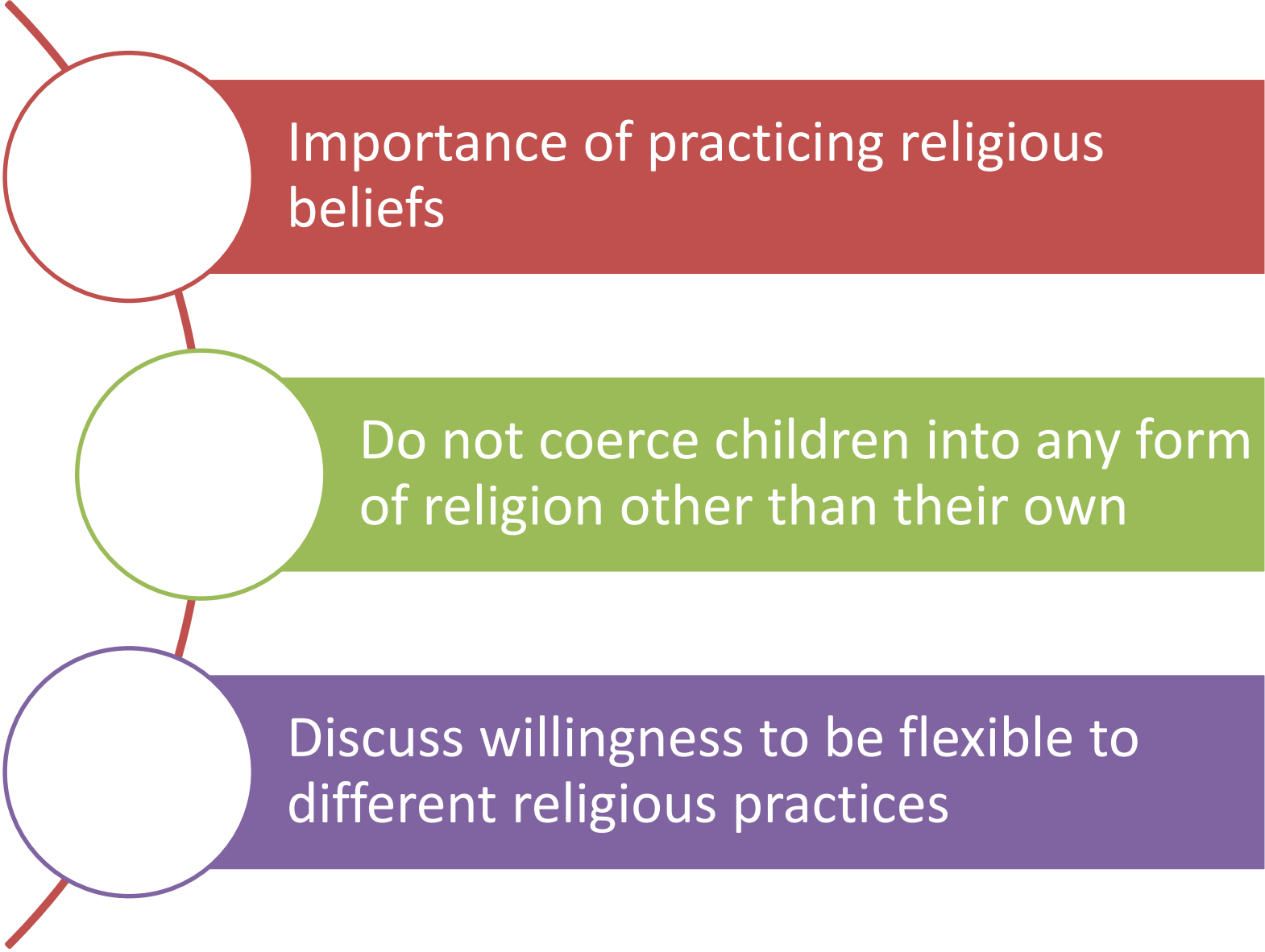
School is the place where children will spend most of their time (aside from home)

School can be a challenge

Some schools will be challenged by the diversity of children



Religious Institutions



Importance of practicing religious beliefs

Do not coerce children into any form of religion other than their own

Discuss willingness to be flexible to different religious practices



Community and Social Groups



Prepare people in your life for the changes in your family system

Advocate for a child of a minority status


Prepare for potential negative reactions

Transfer of

LEARNING

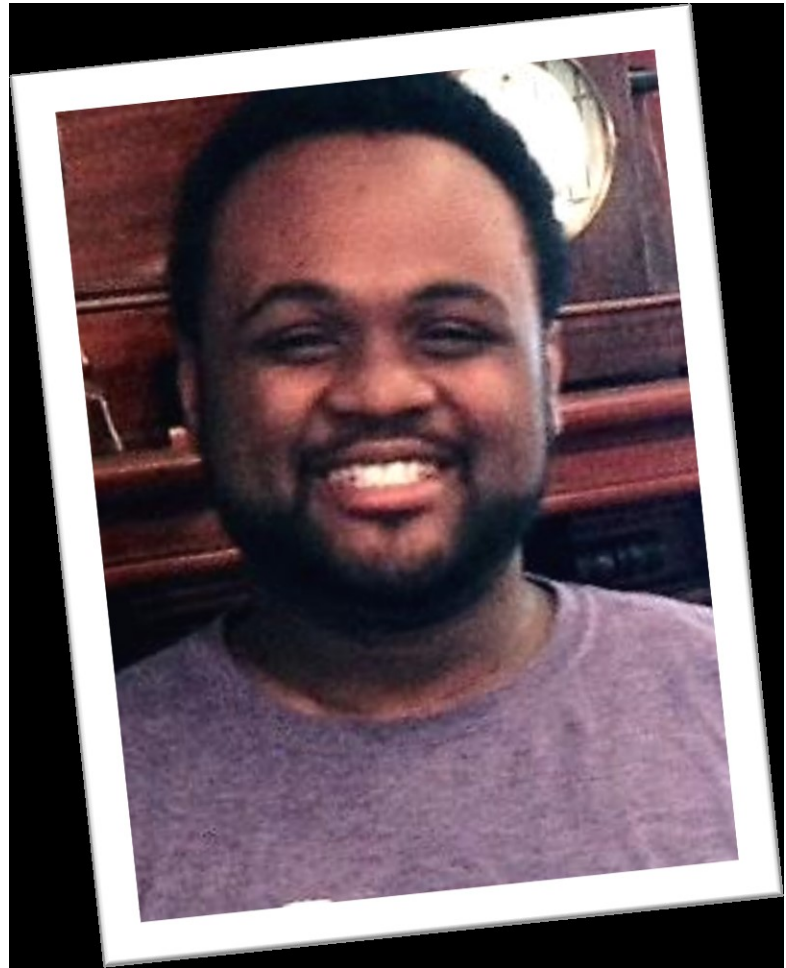
LEARNING





Based on today's session, what next steps will you take to prepare your home to provide a safe and nurturing environment that welcomes all children no matter what diversity they bring with them?

**“Your Job Is
Important”**



Dauntae

1

I can show respect for differences
between the child and my family by
being flexible with family rules.

2

I can help a foster child feel welcomed and respected for who she/he is by taking time to build a relationship before enforcing all rules.

3

All children, even those who may look like me, can be different based on race, gender, ethnicity, group affiliation, and socio-economic status.



Thank you!

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