



# Post Adoption Issues for Families

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





You will be able to:

- ✓ Identify long-term issues impacting parents who adopt children from foster care
- ✓ Identify reasons why children need to understand their histories
- ✓ Explain different types of post adoption support for adoptive families

**Adoptive parents bring their  
own, interconnected issues  
to the adoption**



- 
- A 3D illustration of a brown cardboard box, viewed from a low angle. The box is open at the top, and its side panel is visible. On this side panel, there is a list of five items, each preceded by a checkmark. The text is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font and is slightly tilted to follow the perspective of the box. The box is set against a plain white background, with a light blue surface visible at the bottom.
- ✓ Loss of the dream child
  - ✓ Unmet expectations
  - ✓ Infertility
  - ✓ Guilt/failure
  - ✓ Lack of entitlement

- 
- ✓ Fear of birthparents
  - ✓ Isolation
  - ✓ Control
  - ✓ Overprotectiveness
  - ✓ Sibling issues



*Take care of yourself*



- Acknowledge grief
- Network
- Don't over-react
- Don't under-react
- Talk openly







- Encourage positive feelings
- Be alert
- Be an active parent
- Avoid control battles

Why should adopted children be told about their histories? Wouldn't it be easier for them if we didn't give them negative information?



In order to heal from trauma, children need to understand their history and know they are valued individuals.



6

*Help your child to develop a  
strength-based understanding of  
his or her story*



Talking



About



Adoption





When do  
you tell?



A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a wooden table with a prominent grain. Several old, black and white photographs are scattered across the table. One photo in the upper left shows a person in a light-colored dress. Another in the upper right shows a person in a dark coat. A third in the lower left is partially visible, showing a dark scene. The text "How do you tell?" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

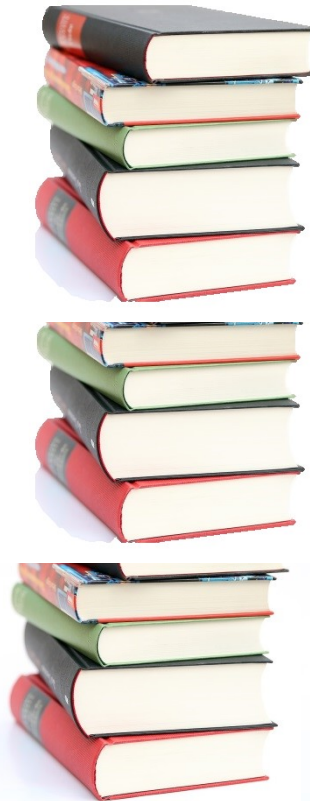
**How do  
you tell?**

# INFORMATION

Family



Friends



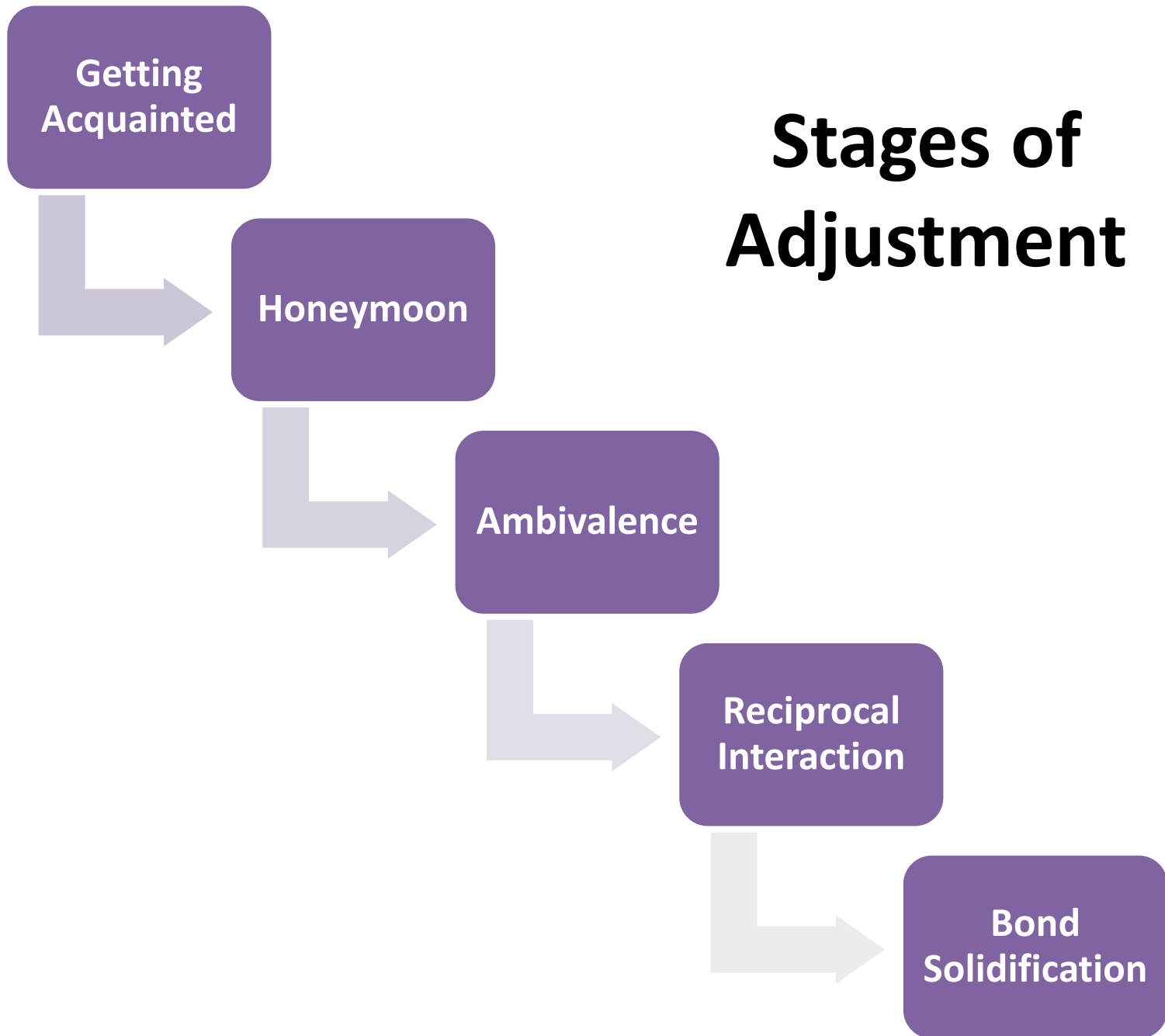
School



Community



# Stages of Adjustment



# Getting acquainted



# The honeymoon



# Ambivalence

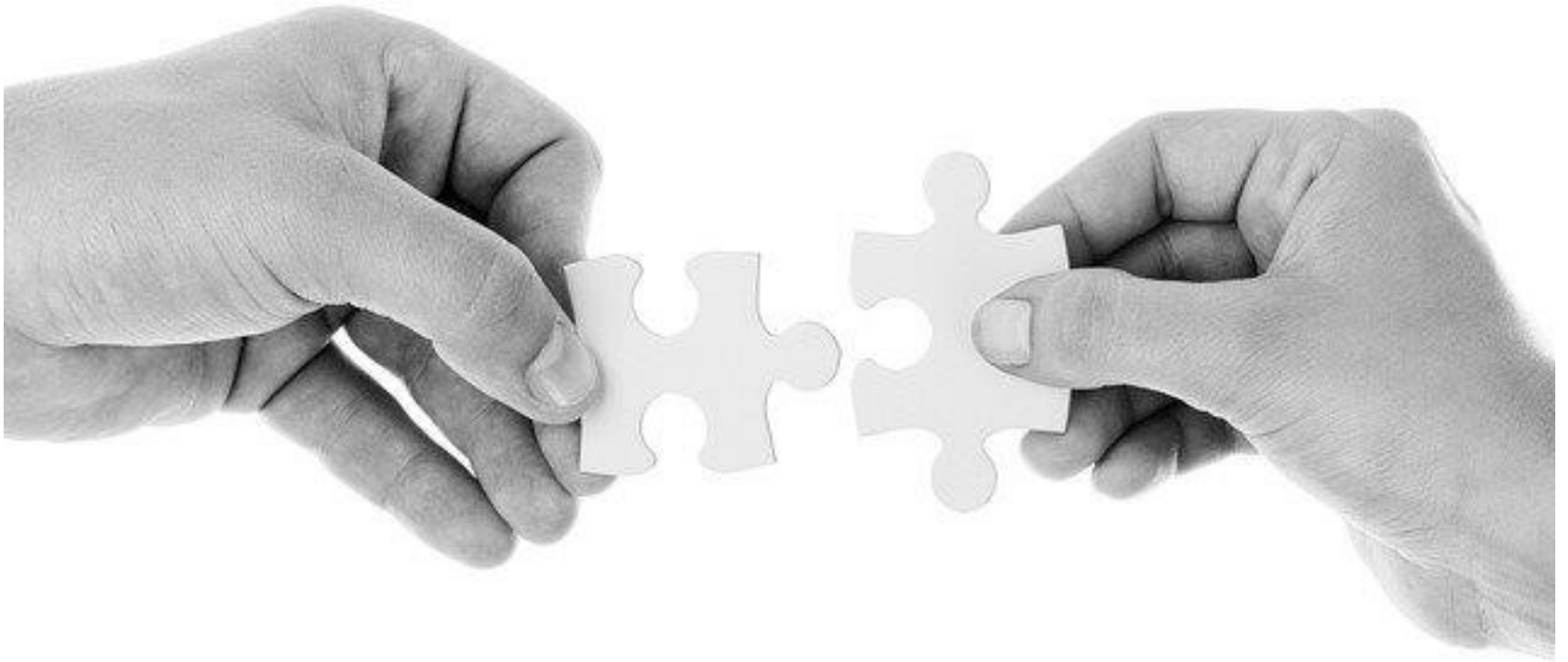


YES  
NO  
MAYBE

A rectangular chalkboard with a dark surface and a light brown wooden frame. The words "YES", "NO", and "MAYBE" are written in white chalk, stacked vertically in the center. The word "YES" is at the top, "NO" is in the middle, and "MAYBE" is at the bottom. A small piece of white chalk lies horizontally on the bottom edge of the frame, slightly to the right of the center. The entire chalkboard is set against a light blue background.



# Reciprocal interaction



# Bond Solidification





**Post Adoption Services**

A white ceramic piggy bank is positioned in the lower half of the frame. Above it, a clear glass tube extends from the top edge, with a US quarter coin suspended just above the piggy bank's slot. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of light purple and white.

# **Adoption Subsidies**

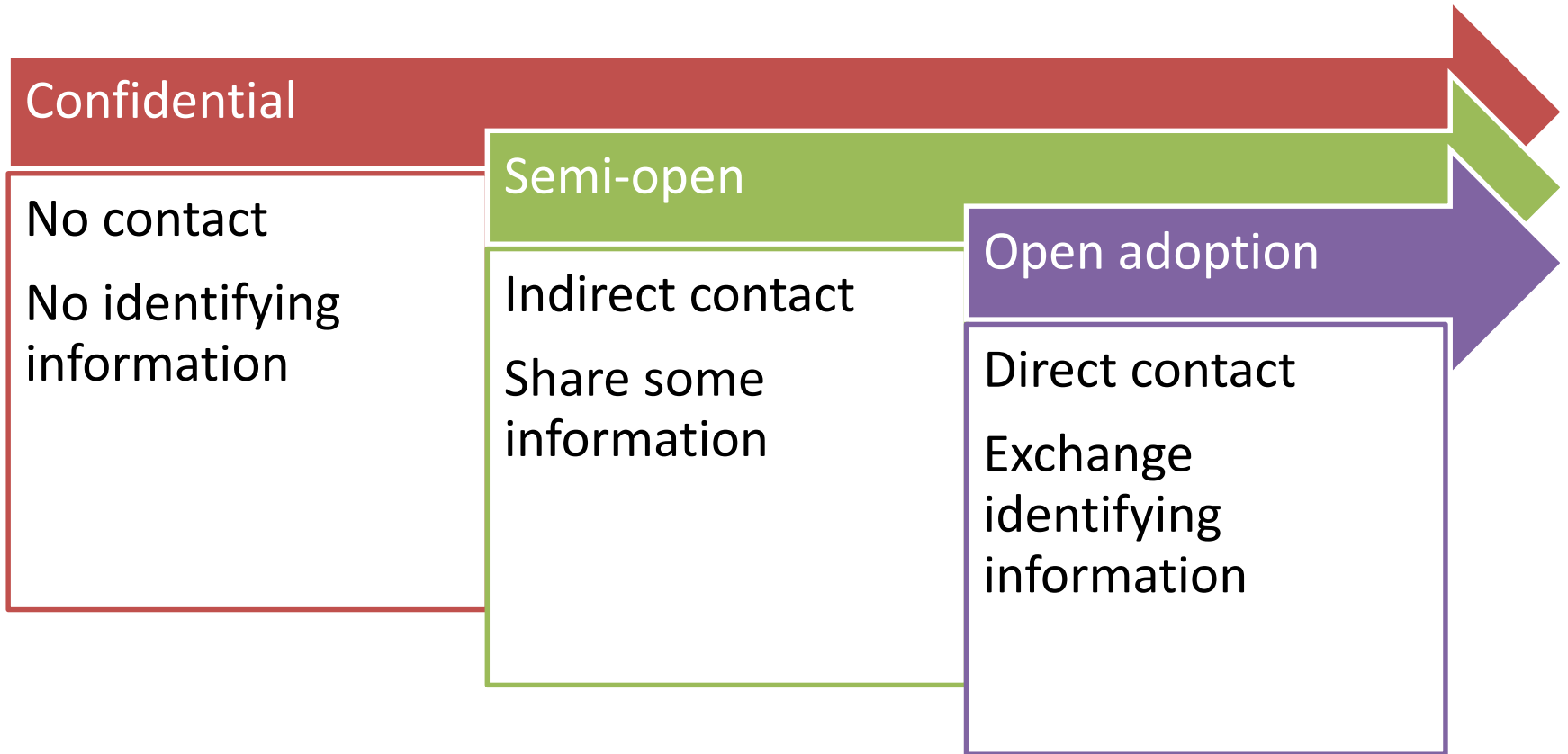
# Barriers to Post Adoption Services

• Inability to find needed services	43%
• Providers who don't understand adoption	39%
• Services that cost too much	33%
• Providers who don't accept Medicaid	30%

Effective and accessible post-adoption services are **critical** to ensure **permanency** through adoption.



# Openness in Adoption



# **Advantages for the Child**



# **Advantages for Adoptive Parents**





# CAUTION

- Is there a safety risk?
- Will this create additional trauma for my child?
- Are we unable to maintain appropriate boundaries?
- Is the birth family unsupportive of me?

# Review Your Situation...

- What type of openness is appropriate in this situation?
- What boundaries should be in place?
- Are there any concerns?



**Transfer of**

**LEARNING**

**LEARNING**





- Identify long-term issues impacting parents who adopt children from foster care.
- Identify reasons why children need to understand their histories.
- Explain different types of post adoption support for adoptive families.





Yes! You can:

- ✓ Accurately self-assess
- ✓ Explain your role in supporting child welfare goals
- ✓ Recognize your role in placement stability
- ✓ Explain the importance of teaming
- ✓ Recognize the need to parent differently
- ✓ Explain how your response to diversity impacts placement success

You did  
it!



# NEXT



- Give your worker a copy of your certificates
- If you haven't received your application packet yet, request one
- Pick a spot to keep all your important documents - keep your handouts there, too
- Celebrate completing this step!

# 1

Long-term issues affecting parents who adopt include:

- Loss of the dream child
- Lack of entitlement
- Isolation

2

Children should be told about, and  
helped to understand, their histories.  
(True)



# 3

Training and subsidies are typical post adoption support services. Residential care is not.

# Thank you!



Visit the OCWTP  
website for additional  
training resources  
[www.ocwtp.net](http://www.ocwtp.net)

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