



ADOPTION CONSIDERATIONS

OCWTP

FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP CARE, AND ADOPTION PRESERVICE TRAINING Common stressors for foster and adoptive families include building and sustaining a relationship with the primary family, scheduling and transportation issues, and sharing/privacy/jealousy issues with children



An example of a realistic expectation for foster and adoptive families is: it will take time to feel love and connection to this child.



It is important for caregivers to practice self-care. One way they can practice is by finding time for spiritual connection such as spending time in nature.





Training **Environment** Make sure your arning sticks 7ith you until you need it...

Real World

Opt-in today to receive three emailed "Protect-Your-Learning" exercises:

Scan this code now with your smartphone or use this handout later.





Protect Your Preservice Learning!



Research shows that, without intervention, you risk losing a significant amount of what you just learned in Preservice training within a week of learning it. That's a real problem if it's two, three, or more weeks until you really need to use what you learned.

The good news is we've developed a strategy to keep those new concepts fresh in your mind for those first few weeks after training. Sign up using one of the options below and you'll receive three strategically-spaced "protect your learning" emails, each containing a few short interactive exercises to help you remember and apply what you learned in Preservice training.

Three Ways to Sign Up:

 If you have a free QR Code reader app on your smart phone or tablet, simply use your device's camera to take a picture of the QR Code below. When prompted, enter your name and email address to start receiving "protect your learning" emails. Here's the QR code:



 Enter this address in your web browser: http://eepurl.com/glY_WH (note the capital letters and the underscore between the Y and the W). When prompted, enter your name and email address to start receiving "protect your learning" emails.

3. Go to the Caregivers Corner page on the OCWTP website. Select "Training" then "Preservice" from the top menu, then follow the right-side link to "Protect Your Preservice Learning." Scroll down and click the link to opt into the protect-your-learning campaign. When prompted, enter your name and email address to start receiving "protect your learning" emails.

NOTE: Email addresses will be used solely for the purpose of prompting your memory on your Preservice learning. Each of the three emails you will receive will contain a link to "opt out" of receiving any remaining emails.

You will be able to:

 Explain issues that may impact children adopted from foster care and adoptive parents

 Discuss adoption considerations at each stage of development

 Identify different types of post adoption support available to adoptive families, including subsidies.

Why do we need to talk about adoption?



The Road to Adoption Adopt USKids



Rewards of Adoption

Stability

Status

Connection

Transition

Support

Grandparents

Inheritance

Adopted Youth

- Complete high school
- Complete college
- Employed
- Adequate income

- Teen parents
- Substance abuse
- Mental health problems
- Arrests and incarcerations



Definitely again

Very warm & close



Adoption Dynamics

• Loss Grief Rejection Shame & Guilt Identity Intimacy Mastery & Control

Loss



Why might this be an issue for:The adoptee?The adoptive parent?

Adoptee



Ambiguous Loss

What might have been

Adoptive Parent

Fantasy child

Why might this be an issue for:The adoptee?The adoptive parent?





Grief

No formal, recognized process

Adoptee

Cause for celebration



Universal feeling, unique process

Interplay between grieving parents & grieving child



Rejection

Separation from birth family Multiple moves

Adoptive Parent

Feel judged

Fear rejection by parent





Shame & Guilt



Unlovable and "unkeepable"

Unable to live up to expectations

Feel responsible for the birth family break-up

Adoptive Parent

- Have to "pass muster"
- Desire to prove they are a super parent

Identity





Adoptive Parent

Struggle with feeling entitled to parent

Intimacy

Adoptee

Neglect/abuse • Multiple moves • Membership in two families • Jealous of birth children

• Feel threatened by birth parents

 Increased tension when foster children come & go **Adoptive Parent**
Mastery & Control



No control over their removal

Adoptee

 Feelings of frustration & helplessness

Adoptive Parent

Powerless to control factors regarding adoption

Additional challenges threaten sense of control

Unnecessarily over-protective

Power struggles

And Anna pe

TRIGGERS

What events or circumstances might trigger adoptionrelated emotions?

Recognize and Anticipate

19



Network

Don't over-react

Don't under-react

Talk openly

Encourage positive feelings

Be honest

Avoid control battles

A stable relationship

Warm family interaction

Authoritative

Openness

Social support

Family Protective Factors

Realistic expectations

Proper preparation



Advantages for the Child



Advantages for Adoptive Parents



0 to 3 years

What is Attachment happening develognogentally atchiisiaige?



To do: Help them attach Help them learn the words



3 to 6 years

Self-regulation happening Initiative developmentally



To do: Help them understand they did not cause the separation



7 to 12 years

Undewstateding abstract concepts happening deared oppening at this age? Being the Same

To do: Help them grieve their loss Help them understand their history



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



Initiate conversation Be open and honest

The child's history belongs to the child

12-15 years

What is happeitivng developmationally at this age?



To do: Help them form an identity

16-18 years

What is Preparing to happening leave the developmentally home at this age?



To do: Help them understand the relationship is lifelong

Adoption in Adulthood

It's like a pebble in a shoe





POST ADOPTION SERVICES





Educational and Information Services

Clinical Services



Support networks



Financial and medical assistance





You can:

Accurately selfassess

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!

Complete your First Aid/CPR training

Give your worker a copy of your certificates

Request an application packet from your agency

Pick a spot to keep all your important documents

Make a plan for remembering what you have learned!



Thank you!

OCWTP Foster Care, Kinship Care, and Adoption Preservice Training