

## MODULE XI: ADOPTION CONSIDERATIONS

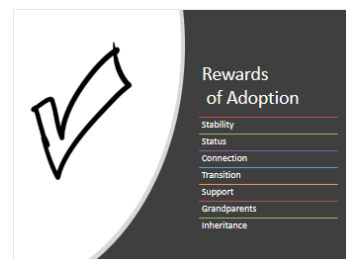
### Note Taking Guide

At the end of this session, 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.

### Advantages of Adoption

- Permanency issues are pertinent to any child who has been separated long-term from the primary family.
- Children who are adopted have advantages over, and better outcomes, than children who emancipate from the foster care system.



### Adoption Dynamics

- Kaplan Roszia and Davis Maxon (2019) have identified seven core issues for all members of the adoption triad (adoptive parents, primary parents, and adoptee).

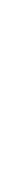


Issue	Impact on Adoptee	Impact on Adoptive Parents
Loss		
Grief		
Rejection		
Shame & Guilt		
Identity		
Intimacy		
Mastery & Control		

- There are events and circumstances that may trigger emotions related to the adoption issues.

Events

Circumstances




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- Strategies to help parents deal with adoption issues include:
  - Network with other adoptive families to avoid isolation
  - Don't over-react to problems
  - Don't under-react to problems
  - Talk openly about adoption in the family
  - Encourage the child to have positive feelings about their birth family
  - Always be honest in sharing information about the birth parent and the birth history
  - Avoid control battles

- Strive for these protective factors:
  - A stable marriage or partner relationship with good communication
  - A warm, cohesive pattern of family interaction
  - An authoritative but nurturing parenting style
  - Openness in communication
  - Good social support from outside the family
- Go into adoption with realistic expectations and proper preparation
- Help the child maintain connections, called “openness”

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## Adoption Issues Across Development

- 0-3 years – Foundational work. Teach them the words. Practice speaking comfortably about adoption.
- 3-6 years – Little understanding. Help them understand they did not cause the separation.
- 7-12 years – Realization of loss. Help them come to terms with their loss. Initiate conversations about their adoption. Help them decide to who and how to share their information.
- 13-15 years - Identity confusion. Help them form an identity. Help them maintain connections with their birth family.
- 16-18 years – Anxiety about leaving home. Help them understand moving out will not sever the relationship.
- Adulthood – Issues may resurface throughout life.



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## Post Adoption Services

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- Educational and Information Services
  - Information and referral
  - Parenting Education
  - Relationship Education.
  - Background information on the child
  - Search and reunion support
  
- Clinical Services
  - Therapeutic interventions for children and families
  - Wraparound services
  - Adoption competent community services.
  
- Support networks
  - Peer support services for adoptive parents
  - Peer support services for children
  - Respite care
  
- Material Support
  - Financial and medical assistance
  
- Advocacy and case management



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## Transfer of Learning and Evaluation

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List three ways you will use the information from this training.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Resources

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Accessing Post Adoption Support and Preservation Services

[https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/f\\_postadoption.pdf#page=6&view=Types%20of%20services](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/f_postadoption.pdf#page=6&view=Types%20of%20services)

Seven Core Issues in Adoption and Permanency

<https://www.nacac.org/resource/seven-core-issues-in-adoption-and-permanency/>

Ohio Adoption Subsidies Guide

<http://ocwtp.net/PDFs/Trainee%20Resources/Assessor%20Resources/Adoption%20Assistance/2B%20Adoption%20Subsidies%20Guide.pdf>

*Wounded Children, Healing Homes* by Jayne Schooler and Betsy Smalley

Adoption Network Cleveland

<https://www.adoptionnetwork.org/>

Ohio's Kinship and Adoptive Parent Navigator program

<https://www.kinnectohio.org/ohiokan/>

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### Adoption Subsidy Options

#### Federal Adoption Subsidy Programs

In general, “special needs” describes circumstances that prevent or delay a child from being placed into an adoptive home. Federal law states that when deciding whether a child has special needs, a state must determine whether a specific factor or condition exists that would prevent the child from being placed with the adoptive parents if not for the adoption subsidy.

- Title IV-E Adoption Assistance  
Title IV-E Adoption Assistance provides financial assistance to families based on the child’s special needs at the time of the adoptive placement. The benefits may include a monthly payment and/or a Medicaid card.
- Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Connections (AAC) to Age 21  
AAC provides financial assistance to eligible families who adopt children at ages 16 or 17 to support them as they transition to adulthood. Families may receive a monthly payment and/or Medicaid coverage, and that support may continue until the young adult reaches age 21, if other eligibility criteria are met. This program is not intended to replace Title IV-E Adoption Assistance for young adults with documented special needs.
- Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses Subsidy  
Nonrecurring adoption expenses are one-time expenses directly related to the legal adoption of a child with special needs such as the supervision of placement prior to the adoption, attorney’s fees, court costs, transportation costs, and the reasonable costs of food and lodging.

#### State Adoption Subsidy Programs

- State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy (SAMS)  
SAMS program provides financial assistance to families based on the child’s special needs at the time of the adoptive placement. A child who is eligible to receive Title IV-E Adoption Assistance is not eligible to receive SAMS.
- Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS)  
PASSS is a unique subsidy designed to help Ohio families after adoptions are finalized. PASSS is available to all adoptive families and the child does not have to meet the federal or state definitions of special needs.

For more information on subsidies, download the *Adoption Subsidies Guide* at:

<http://ocwtp.net/PDFs/Trainee%20Resources/Assessor%20Resources/Adoption%20Assistance/2B%20Adoption%20Subsidies%20Guide.pdf>