

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (<http://www.hhs.gov/>)

Administration for Children & Families (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>)

Children's Bureau (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/>)

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Adoption From Foster Care

When children in out-of-home care cannot be safely reunited with their birth families, adoption is often the most desirable goal. Adoption provides the most stable, legally binding relationship for these children and their adoptive parents.

Foster parents adopt most children who are adopted from foster care; many other children are adopted by relatives. In some cases, child welfare professionals must recruit potential adoptive families for specific children who are waiting for adoption.

AdoptUsKids (/survey/?

target=<http%3A%2F%2Fwww.adoptuskids.org%2F&referrer='https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/permanency/adoption/'>)

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Assists States, Tribes, territories, and courts in their efforts to recruit and retain foster, adoptive, and kinship families and connect them with waiting children throughout the United States. AdoptUSKids also raises public awareness about the need for foster and adoptive families.

Foster Parents Considering Adoption

Series Title Factsheets for Families

Author(s) Child Welfare Information Gateway

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Year Published 2012

Summarizes what foster parents should consider while deciding whether to adopt their foster child or youth. This factsheet does not address the specifics of how to adopt; it provides information on the differences between foster care and adoption, advantages of foster parent adoption, strategies for foster/adoptive families, and useful references.

Helping Your Foster Child Transition to Your Adopted Child

Series Title Factsheets for Families

Author(s) Child Welfare Information Gateway

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Year Published 2012

Summarizes how foster/adoptive parents can help their child make the emotional adjustment to being an adopted child. Children and youth may not clearly comprehend the difference between being a foster child versus being an adopted child in the same family. This factsheet provides suggestions for talking with children about the changes from foster care to adoption, helping them understand their own histories and losses, helping them cope with trauma and transfer attachments, and useful resources.

Preparing and Supporting Foster Parents Who Adopt

Series Title Bulletins for Professionals
 Author(s) Child Welfare Information Gateway
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Year Published 2013

Discusses the ways that professionals can help foster parents before, during, and after they adopt from foster care in order to ensure that the child and family experience a successful adoption outcome. Foster parents are the most important source of adoptive families for children in the child welfare system. In order to facilitate these types of adoption, professionals should be knowledgeable about the benefits, costs, and practice implications.

"Special Needs" Adoption: What Does It Mean?

Series Title Factsheets for Families
 Author(s) Child Welfare Information Gateway
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Year Published 2010

Presents some common questions about adopting a child or youth designated as having "special needs" and provides resources that give detailed answers. In adoption, the phrase "special needs" can apply to almost any child or youth adopted from foster care. The term is used in State laws to indicate eligibility for Federal financial assistance and, depending on the State, may mean that a child is a member of a minority or a sibling group or is older or has a disability or the risk for a disability.

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