



BUILDING FAMILIES THROUGH ADOPTION

ALASKA
center for
RESOURCE FAMILIES



CLASS GUIDELINES

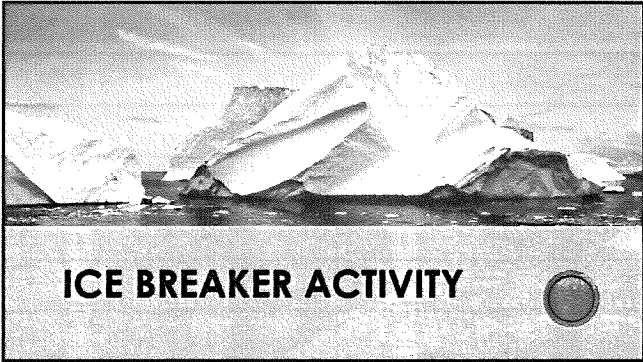
- Sign in by entering your name and location in the chat box
- Participate in activities
- Step Forward, Step Back
- Respect each other during discussions
- Respect confidentiality
- Take care of your needs
- Ask questions and have fun!




NETIQUETTE

- Speak clearly and aim your voice to your microphone
- Step away quietly if you need to
- Keep yourself muted unless speaking
- Make sure your camera is set to show your face so others can see your expressions
- Use the chat box to ask questions or message one of the hosts for support





Activity



Question:
What are some of the reasons that you are choosing to adopt?
Or
Why do you think families chose adoption?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To expand knowledge of the core issues of adoption
- To understand a child's behavior in the context of adoption issues and early trauma
- To learn skills to bring holistic healing to the children in our care



BUILDING FAMILIES THROUGH ADOPTION

- Session 1:** Beginning Connections
- Session 2:** Exploring Grief and Loss in Adoption
- Session 3:** Telling the Story: Understanding the Developmental Tasks of Adoption
- Session 4:** Identity in Adoption
- Session 5:** Trauma informed, Adoption Competent Parenting: Introduction to Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)



THE LANGUAGE OF THE JOURNEY



- ICWA- Indian Child Welfare Act
- Legal Risk
- Legally Free
- Open Adoption
- TPR- Termination of Parental Rights
- Relinquishment
- Adoption Triad
- Finalization
- Home Study
- TDM- Team Decision Making Meeting
- GAL- Guardian Ad Litem
- PPS- Permanency Planning Specialist



SESSION 1: BEGINNING CONNECTIONS

Session Objectives:

- To explore participant's motivations for adopting
- To understand adoption from a child's perspective
- To understand the connection between motivation and expectations and their impact on the success of a placement.



TOP FIVE COMMON MOTIVATIONS & EXPECTATIONS

1. You want a son or daughter.
2. You want your child to have a playmate.
3. You want to be parents.
4. Faith/Spiritual Reason: "We felt called to do this."
5. Humanitarian/Rescue: "It is the right thing to do, we want to give back."

FROM PARENT TO CHILD CENTERED

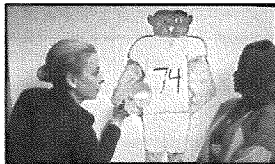
What adult expectations come from this motivation?



Let's look from a child's point of view...

Often motivations that sound noble and honorable to adults are not perceived that way by a child.

EXPECTATIONS – WHAT YOU HOPE FOR



"I am October Ross Jennings and I want to be the single mother to an athletically gifted teen boy who I can help reach his full division one scholarship potential. Preferable African American."

-From the movie, Instant Family

HOPE
FOR
THE BEST
BUT
PREPARE
FOR
THE WORST

"When a child is truly claimed by a family, the very act of claiming removes the possibility of having a 'bottom line' or 'deal breaker' which if crossed, would result in the end of the pre adoptive placement."

-Family Focus

ZOOM Chat!

Post your answer in the chat box

What is your greatest fear of what a child could do in your home?

THE POWER OF WORDS: STRONG BEGINNINGS

"I have tried to explain to my daughters that people do not say these things to be mean, they say them out of ignorance, which is why I am sharing some of them. Words are powerful, they can become tools or weapons, choose to use them wisely."

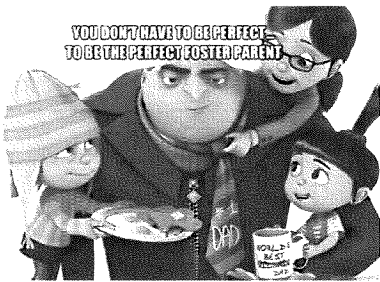
Kim Kelley-Wagner



CHOOSE YOUR WORDS CAREFULLY

Birth Parent/First Parent	NOT	Real or Natural
She made an adoption plan	NOT	She gave away, gave up or put up for adoption.
She was not able to parent	NOT	She did not want the child, or the child was taken away.
Their birth child	NOT	Their own child.
Was adopted	NOT	Is adopted.
This is my son/daughter	NOT	This is my adopted son/daughter.
He is a child from a hard place	NOT	He is emotionally disturbed, troubled, etc.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT TO BE THE PERFECT FOSTER PARENT



Final Thoughts

Perseverance

Flexible Expectations

Sense of Humor

Humility

Claiming

Commitment

**ADOPTION,
ATTACHMENT,
AND
DEVELOPMENT**



Stages of Psychosocial Development

- Infant
- Toddler
- Pre-schooler
- Grade-schooler
- Teenager
- Young Adult
- Middle-age Adult
- Older Adult

Proposed by Erik Erikson

ERIKSON'S 8 STAGES

On Track Development Early Years: Trust vs. Mistrust

Trust Bank Balance: 150,000 yes'

Belief System
I am loved.
I am precious.
I am valuable.
My voice matters.

**SECURE ATTACHMENT
is the foundation for:**

- Self Regulation
- Mental Health
- Self Efficacy (voice)
- Cause and Effecting Thinking
- Self Esteem/Identity
- Remorse
- Compassion



**Derailed Development
Early Years: Trust vs. Mistrust**

Trust Bank Balance: OVERDRAWN!



**I don't like you
You don't exist
Your needs don't matter
Don't trust adults
You are on your own
You are unlovable
You are defective**





