

Preparation for Adoption

Background Notes

Adoption is a change for children and families, this is sometimes both an emotional and physical shift. In order to ensure such shifts are successful, thoughtful planning must occur prior to the change. Preparation of children needs to be developmentally appropriate and is the responsibility of the caseworker. Preparation begins long before the child is presented at an adoption committee and continues through the transition. Preparation is a joint effort with the caseworker, caregiver, therapist, school, and hopefully the birth parent if able. The primary responsibility rests with the caseworker to ensure the child is prepared for the change.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Ask your Supervisor what resources your office has for preparing children for adoption.
- From the appendix read "Strategies for Transitioning Children based on Age and Stage", and "A Child's Senses are Critical in Attachment" and discuss this information with your Supervisor.
- Work with your Supervisor to identify a worker with experience in preparing children for adoption. Talk to the worker about their methods of preparing children and their positive and negative transition experiences.
- Work with your Supervisor to assist you in identifying a worker who is currently preparing a child for adoption and observe the work they do with the child in preparation of adoption.

Discoveries:

- *What techniques does the worker use in preparing children for adoption?*
- *What resources are available in your community to help with the preparation process?*
- *What techniques did you learn from the reading materials?*
- *Find out what materials, arts/crafts, are available to assist you with preparing the child for transition.*
- *Discuss with your Supervisor what you have learned that were both positive and negative in relation to preparing children for adoption.*