

Child Preparation

Location: Any (Home, Office, Community)

Client: Parent/Caregiver, Child, Sibling Groups

Duration: Moderate – referrals are created for six months

Payer: DCS

Summary:

This preparation is to assist the local Department of Child Services (DCS) in assessing the adoption readiness of children in the custody of the State of Indiana. Upon assessment, the contractor will work to prepare the child(ren) for adoption. The child should be counseled about what adoption will mean to them, and make it clear that an adoptive family is a permanent family. This explanation also necessitates the painful realization that the biological family ties may be severed prior to the adoption.

Preparation of children or adolescents for adoptive placement may include but is not limited to the following areas:

- 1) Reconstruction and interpretation of child's history
- 2) Weaving together the child's background so s/he understands their own unique life experience
- 3) Grief and loss issues with biological and foster families (and others)
- 4) Loyalty issues
- 5) What adoption means
- 6) Listening to an adoptive child speak of their experience and feelings
- 7) Sharing of feelings
- 8) Knowing the difference between adoption and foster care