

Once families have completed TIPS-MAPP and have an approved adoptive family assessment, they will be registered on the Adopt Kansas Kids exchange for a potential match. The adoptive family assessment will be used in a Best Interest Staffing to determine if they can meet the needs of a child(ren).

Families can also express interest in being considered for children listed on the Adopt Kansas Kids website. If selected, families are given the opportunity to review the child's file and talk with professionals prior to meeting the child to decide if they can meet the specific needs of a child.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW

Adoption Assistance may be available to families who adopt children from foster care. Prior to a child being placed with an adoptive family, the family will meet with an adoption expert from DCF to discuss the child's eligibility for adoption assistance. Most children adopted from foster care are eligible for some kind of support.

APPENDIX 5T-A

ADOPTION FROM FOSTER CARE

*For Families Who Will
Love Children “No
Matter What”*



Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas

ADOPTION

Adoption is a lifelong process for the adopted child, adoptive family and birth parents. Emotions experienced may include: loss, rejection, guilt, shame, grief, and issues of identity and attachment. However, adoption may offer a sense of happiness, excitement, love, security, and belonging.

Adoption is the social, emotional, and legal process by which a child becomes a permanent member of another family while maintaining genetic and psychological connections to their birth family.

ADOPTION FROM FOSTER CARE

Adoption from foster care involves the adoption of children who are in the custody of the Secretary of the Kansas Department for Children and Families. When children in foster 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.

Relatives are given preference for children who are adopted from foster care. However, foster parents also adopt children from foster care. For some children, child welfare professionals must recruit prospective adoptive families for specific children who are waiting for adoption. The

goal is finding families who can meet the needs of each child. Adoption from foster care is a service for the child.

WHO CAN ADOPT CHILDREN FROM FOSTER CARE

In Kansas, children in foster care may be adopted by married couples or single persons who are 18 years or older. Determining eligibility to adopt is based on a process of mutual preparation and assessment by the prospective adoptive family and a social worker who works for a Child Placing Agency. Family members living in the home must be able to pass background checks and demonstrate financial stability.

Successful Adoptive Families:

- Have the ability and desire to act in the best interest of the child
- Offer love without expecting it in return
- Are able to make and keep commitments
- Are flexible and able to adjust to the unexpected/unknown
- Have a strong support system
- Tolerate other's mood swings, feelings and beliefs
- Have a sense of humor
- If married, both spouses are equally committed to the adoption.

WHO ARE THE CHILDREN THAT NEED ADOPTION FROM FOSTER CARE

Many children and youth in need of an adoptive family have experienced trauma due to being removed from their birth families because of abuse or neglect. Some may have special needs and developmental disabilities. Some children have experienced multiple moves in foster care. They need families who will provide love and commitment, "No Matter What", and help the child reach their full potential.

To meet the children in foster care who are available for adoption, visit the Adopt Kansas Kids website:
www.adoptkaskids.org

HOW DO I START

Contact Adopt Kansas Kids at 1-800-747-5424 or visit www.adoptkaskids.org for more information on the adoption process.

Prospective adoptive families must work with a Child Placing Agency who will assist with enrollment in a class to help families decide if adopting from foster care is right for them. The class is called Trauma Informed Permanency and Stability – Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (TIPS-MAPP). Class schedules are also posted at www.childally.org.