

Adopting the Older Child

A Discussion Guide

1. Is Older Child Adoption for You?

- a. What new insights did you gain from this lesson on your expectations about adopting an older child?
- b. This lesson recommends taking a personal inventory of your time, money, energy and available resources.
 - i. Which of the necessary resources to care for an older child do you have at present?
 - ii. What will you do to ensure that you will be able to provide the resources to meet your child's needs?

2. Everything You Need to Know

- a. Think about the description of a child that you read in a photolisting or referral.
 - i. What part of the description did you find most appealing?
 - ii. What attributes might that description be hiding or putting a positive spin on?
- b. What concerns do you have about not having a clear enough understanding of the child you're thinking of adopting? What could you do to get more information about that child?

3. Making the Older Child Part of Your Family

- a. Prior to taking this lesson, what thoughts did you have about your child's first days in your home? Based on what you learned, what might you do to smooth the transition?
- b. Claiming is a way the adoptive parents and the adopted child come to feel that they belong to each other.
 - i. What kind of claiming activities will you do with your child?

4. Everyday Challenges

- a. Which kinds of behaviors that were described in this lesson surprised you?
- b. Put yourself in the place of one of the parents in the scenarios. How do you think you would have handled the situation?

5. Coping as a Parent

- a. This lesson recommends "faking it" if you don't feel love for your adopted child.
 - i. Do you think you might find yourself in this situation?
 - ii. How hard do you think it would be for you to follow this advice?

