
Adoption Issues Across Development

- 0-3 years – foundational work. Teach them the words.
- 3-6 years – little understanding. Help them understand they did not cause the separation.
- 7-12 years – realization of loss. Help them come to terms with their loss.
- 13-15 years - identity confusion. Help them form an identity.
- 16-18 years – anxiety about emancipating. Help them understand emancipation will not sever the relationship.



An Adopted Person's Perspective



List three ways you will use the information from this training.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

MODULE XI: LONG TERM SEPARATION

Marcus' Story

Marcus is a 14-year-old boy who was placed with his adoptive family at 12 months of age following one foster placement. His adoptive family includes an older adopted sister, now age 17 (not biologically related to Marcus and also placed at age one year). The sister became pregnant when she was a high school junior. She delivered a baby on the preceding Christmas Day. She decided to raise the baby with help and support from the adoptive parents. Both the sister and her baby are now living in the adoptive home.

Marcus began struggling with school work when he entered middle school. His grades became even worse, often to the point of failing, when he entered high school the preceding fall. He is often verbally abusive and he is particularly angry at his sister for becoming pregnant. He is embarrassed that his first year in high school is spent as the brother of the only pregnant girl in his small school.

Marcus searched for and found his birth mother. He made contact with her before even telling the adoptive parents about the search. The adoptive parents first became aware of the search when the birth mother called them to talk about her recent conversation with Marcus. The adoptive parents are horrified and are still reeling from the pregnancy of the older child. The parents feel as though their efforts in raising these two children have been an abject failure. The entire family immediately has gone into crisis.

Questions:

1) What are the adoption issues that you perceive for Marcus? For the adoptive parents?

2) What are the triggers you notice in the family's recent predicaments?

MODULE XI: LONG TERM SEPARATION

Individual Reflection

Please take a few minutes to reflect on what you have learned in the Preservice training and how it applies to you. Give this sheet to the agency worker who is completing your homestudy.

1. There are many benefits for a child who has a permanent family. What do you think is the greatest benefit? Why?

2. What strategies can you use to help avoid exposing a child to adoption-related triggers?

3. How would you approach the topic of adoption differently with a four year old compared to a fourteen year old?



Ohio Child Welfare Training Program
Preservice Module 11
Long-Term Separation from Birth Families

County where training was held: _____

Trainer: _____

Date: _____

Please complete the survey and provide comments to help us improve this training.

1. Which of the following statements regarding permanency is true?
 - Permanency provides lifelong connections.
 - Permanency is associated with higher levels of drug abuse, arrests, and lower incomes.
 - Permanency can only be achieved through adoption.

2. Emotional issues that could result from long-term separation include (check all that apply):
 - Control
 - Trust
 - Identity

3. Which is an example of a trigger related to the stress of long-term separation from birth parents (check all that apply)?
 - Being highly upset if picked up late from school
 - Being withdrawn and moody on Mother's Day
 - Being very hard on himself/herself for not making the school debate team

4. The trainer could improve this training if they (check all that apply):
 - Shared additional relevant personal examples
 - Managed the group more effectively
 - Gave clearer instructions for activities
 - Helped me better understand how to apply the information to foster care or adoption
 - Other _____

5. Have you been completing the reflection sheets?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I have completed some of them.

6. If you have completed reflections sheets, have you shared them with your worker?
 - Yes, I have.
 - Not yet, but I plan to.
 - No, I do not plan to share them.

7. What other information would you like to share that will benefit future participants of this training (use the back of this sheet if needed)?

Thank you for your feedback!