

Chapter 7 Lesson 1: Healthy Family Relationships

Introduction

In this lesson, you learned about many types of families. Two very special types of families are adoptive families and foster families. Foster parents and adoptive parents make the choice to bring a child who needs a home into their family. The Web site below has more information about the differences between being a foster parent and being an adoptive parent. It also discusses how foster parents can become adoptive parents.

Links to Explore:

Foster Parents Considering Adoption

http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_fospar.cfm

Directions

- Click on the link and read the fact sheet.
 - Then answer the following questions:
1. Identify four changes that foster parents face when they decide to adopt their foster child.
 2. List two reasons that agencies used to discourage foster parents from adopting children in their care.
 3. Of all the children adopted out of foster care between 1998 and 2002, what percentage were adopted by their foster parents?
 4. What are the characteristics of children most likely to be in foster care in the United States?
 5. List three advantages of adoption by foster parents.

Answers:

1. They take on full legal, financial, and decision-making authority for the child, and they develop an attachment to the child as a permanent member of their family.
2. Any two: The agencies wanted the foster families to remain able to take in additional foster children; they were concerned about the impact on other foster children who were not being adopted; they were concerned about the impact of openness between the foster family and the birth family; they did not believe older children were adoptable.
3. 52 percent
4. They tend to be older, to be members of minority groups, to have siblings, and to be survivors of abuse or neglect.
5. Any three of the following:
 - Foster parents are familiar with the child and his or her background.
 - Foster parents have met the birth family.
 - Foster parents understand their role and relationship with the child welfare agency.
 - The child can remain in familiar surroundings.
 - The birth parents will know who is caring for their child.
 - The agency can move the child to a permanent home more quickly.

Additional Links to Explore:

Use the links below to gather additional information on the activity topic. When appropriate, have students extend their research to include important concepts contained in these Web sites.

Child Welfare Information Gateway: The Transition from Foster Family to Adoptive Family

http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_transition.cfm

Administration for Children and Families: Trends in Foster Care and Adoption

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/trends.htm