

Training Announcement

Live on the Internet:

Online Training Courses for Foster/Adoptive Parents

Winter/Spring 2017

Sponsored by the
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
through a training and administrative services agreement with the
Center for Development of Human Services
Institute for Community Health Promotion
SUNY Buffalo State

With online training, participants receive instruction through their computers and participate in all activities from their homes or offices at a time that is convenient for them. Foster/adoptive parents can now take advantage of online trainings in which many key benefits of traditional face-to-face instruction are available to both trainers and participants. In this virtual classroom made possible by *iLinc* software, participants can listen to and speak with a live trainer, electronically “raise their hands,” and pose questions to the trainer or other participants. Text chat and other participant feedback tools are also available.

What do I need in order to participate?

In order to participate in online trainings, interested parties must have all of the following:

- PC with *Microsoft Windows 7, 8, 8.1, or Vista* installed, or
- Macintosh with *OS X 10.10, 10.9, 10.8, or 10.7* installed.
- High-speed Internet access.
- Headset with microphone (or computer speakers and a microphone).
- *iLinc* software (provided free of charge to registered participants).

What kinds of trainings are offered?

Because they have been so well received in past years, an array of 31 courses of interest to foster/adoptive parents is now being offered online. These include three foundation-level trainings, five trainings that cover developmental disabilities, a nine-part training for kinship foster parents, and a dozen other trainings. Generally, most trainings are offered at least once during the day and once during the evening. The schedule of available times and dates for each training, along with the training descriptions, is included in this catalog.

How do I register?

Registration online is quick and simple. For more information, additional resources, and to register for one or more trainings, visit our website:

<http://cdhs.buffalostate.edu/fosterparenttraining/>

It is important to note that when two or more persons who use the same computer are registering for a training online, **each participant must use a separate e-mail address.** (Additional e-mail addresses are usually available free from most Internet providers, or you can sign up for a free e-mail account from one of the following web mail providers: www.gmail.com, www.outlook.com, or www.yahoo.com.)

Once you have registered for your first training, you will be provided with a New York State Office of Children and Family Services account and password, along with free installation of *LearnLinc*, the *iLinc* client software package used for the training.

Everyone should attend *Introduction to iLinc* online before their specific trainings begin. If the *iLinc* software has **not** been previously installed on your computer, it can be downloaded during this pretraining session. During the brief online training, you will have the opportunity to become familiar with the various software functions and have any questions about its use answered. Personal assistance will be provided if necessary.

How will I know when I am officially registered?

Upon registration, you will receive an e-mail confirmation stating the title of the training, as well as the date(s) for which you are registered.

How will I get my training materials?

Downloadable training materials are available on the CDHS Foster/Adoptive Parent Resource Center web link (<http://cdhs.buffalostate.edu/fosterparenttraining/>) or will be sent to training participants at their home addresses in advance of the start date. If you are a foster/adoptive parent participating from your home computer, please be sure to supply us with your full home address during registration. The address entered must be your full street address and *cannot* be a PO box number, since the carrier used for delivery (UPS) will not make deliveries to post office boxes. **The UPS carrier does not leave packages that are unsigned for and will make only three delivery attempts before returning materials to the sender.**

Is there a training cancellation policy?

Yes—and there are three important things to keep in mind regarding cancellations:

1. If it becomes necessary to withdraw from a training for which you are registered, please notify CDHS Registration Services by e-mail as soon as possible at registrationservices@bsc-cdhs.org or cancel your registration by phone at **716-876-7600, ext. 600** (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). Except for unforeseen emergencies, cancellations should be made at least three (3) business days before the scheduled training.
2. The primary contact person/agency representative indicated on your registration application will be called if a training is cancelled, and the contact person is responsible for notifying participants.
3. Every effort is made to offer all trainings as they appear in our training calendar. **Note:** CDHS reserves the right to cancel any training for which there is insufficient enrollment.

What if I have any other questions?

For further technical information or support, students may contact the OCFS *iLinc* technical support staff toll-free at **1-800-810-1349**, any time before a training. Our technical support staff will be happy to assist you with the setup and testing of headsets, microphones, and speakers and will be able to answer any other technical questions you may have.

- *Please note: Macintosh users who require technical support should contact the iLinc vendor support number at 1-800-799-4510 for direct assistance from the software vendor. When calling this line, please let them know that you are using the “**installed version of iLinc 12 located at <http://nysocfs.ilinc.com>**” (you should tell them exactly the quoted information as it is here).*

To access the *iLinc* virtual classroom training site, go to the OCFS website:

<http://nysocfs.ilinc.com>

If you have used the site previously, you may notice that this new site has been updated; all of the established *iLinc* functions remain basically the same.

What do I have to do in order to get credit for attending an online training?

If you cannot get into the *iLinc* classroom or if your equipment is not functioning by a maximum of 30 minutes into the start of a training, you will not be counted in attendance for that training and you will not receive credit for attendance.

Will I get a certificate after I complete an online training?

When all training requirements have been met, a *Certificate of Completion* is sent to all participants who have completed a training. If for some reason you do not receive your *Certificate of Completion* through your e-mail account after you have completed an online training or if you lose your certificate after you receive it, you can contact CDHS Registration Services staff to request a duplicate at registrationservices@bsc-cdhs.org.

The person designated as the agency/LCDSS primary contact person will also receive a copy of the *Certificate of Completion*. Be sure that you enter the agency contact person's e-mail address. This is usually the training coordinator for your agency. If you are unsure whose name to enter, call your agency and inquire.

iLinc Schedule at a Glance Winter/Spring 2017

<http://cdhs.buffalostate.edu/fosterparenttraining>

DD1: Introduction to Developmental Disabilities	June 1, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or May 30, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720888) (ID# 720893)
DD2: Acquiring Services for Children with Developmental Disabilities	June 8, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or June 6, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720894) (ID# 720895)
DD3: Foster/Adoptive Parents as Effective Advocates	June 15, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or June 13, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720896) (ID# 720897)
DD4: Raising Children with Developmental Disabilities: The Impact on Family Life	June 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or June 20, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720898) (ID# 720899)
DD5: Parenting a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	June 29, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or June 27, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720900) (ID# 720901)
CFOO1: Introduction to Caring For Our Own	Feb. 8, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720920) (ID# 720921)
CFOO2: Assessing the Impact of the Children Living in My Home	Feb. 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or Feb. 21, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720923) (ID# 720924)
CFOO3: Looking at My Role in Achieving Permanency	March 8, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or March 7, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720925) (ID# 720927)
CFOO4: Assessing the Strengths and Needs of the Children in My Care	March 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or March 21, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720931) (ID# 720932)
CFOO5: Building on the Strengths and Meeting the Needs of the Children in My Care	March 29, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or March 28, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720936) (ID# 720937)
CFOO6: Preparing Children and Youth for the Future	April 5, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or April 4, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720938) (ID# 720941)
CFOO7: Understanding the Issues of Birth Parents	April 12, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or April 11, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720944) (ID# 720945)
CFOO8: Working with Birth Parents to Achieve Permanency for Their Children	April 19, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or April 18, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720947) (ID# 720949)
CFOO9: Networking and Moving Ahead	April 26, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or April 25, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720952) (ID# 720953)
FC1: Using the Helping Skills to Build Relationships	Feb. 9, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or Feb. 6, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720954) (ID# 720956)
FC2: The Ages and Stages of Development	March 9, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or March 6, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720961) (ID# 720968)
FC3: Supporting Attachment	March 23, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or March 20, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 720996) (ID# 721000)
The Roots of Foster Fatherhood	Feb. 15, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721003)
Foster Fathers and Their Impact on Children's Well-Being	March 20, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721004)
Foster Fathers' Role in Case Planning	April 18, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721005)
Human Sexuality Part 1	May 10, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or May 2, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721008) (ID# 721010)
Human Sexuality Part 2	May 11, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or May 3, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721009) (ID# 721011)
Proactive Responses to Lying	March 2, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or Feb. 28, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721043) (ID# 721045)
Proactive Responses to Stealing	March 16, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or March 14, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721047) (ID# 721048)

Positive Communication Skills for Foster Parents	Feb. 22, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721050)
More Positive Communication Skills for Foster Parents	March 15, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721052)
Keeping Your Family Safe	March 10, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or March 8, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721053) (ID# 721055)
Fear and Control	March 30, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or March 27, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721056) (ID# 721057)
Creating Sibling Harmony	May 3, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721059)
Mad Is Not Bad! Understanding Anger in Grieving Children	June 7, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721061)
Managing My Anger	Feb. 10, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or Feb. 8, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721062) (ID# 721063)
When Children Move: The Foster Parents' Loss Experience	April 5, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	(ID# 721064)

Developmental Disabilities

This five-part series is intended for foster/adoptive parents who are raising children with developmental disabilities and who have already taken the Internet course *Ages and Stages of Development* (or, alternatively, the *COMPASS Session 3: Promoting Child Development* module through in-person delivery) or who are already knowledgeable about child development. Since each part builds on the previous one, these trainings should be taken in sequence. Each training lasts two hours, and each is offered once during the day and once in the evening so that participants can choose a time that is convenient for them. **Note:** Participant guides will be mailed to all preregistered participants of DD1, DD3, DD4, and DD5 before classes begin. The *Child Development Guide* will also be mailed to participants preregistered for DD1, and a resource guide will be mailed to participants preregistered for DD2. Additional handouts will be available for download from <http://cdhs.buffalostate.edu/fosterparenttraining/>.

DD1: Introduction to Developmental Disabilities

Instructors: Diana Shultz Pura Gonzalez

This course focuses on the developmental disabilities and delays that may affect the children in your care. Since there are important differences in the terms used in this topic, we'll look at how developmental *delay* and developmental *disability* are defined. We'll talk about how to use the *Child Development Guide* to help you decide whether there are indicators or warning signs related to developmental delays and disabilities in the children in your care. Then we'll explore the New York State Office of People With Developmental Disability's (OPWDD's) five categories of developmental disability.

DD2: Acquiring Services for Children with Developmental Disabilities

Instructor: Diana Shultz

This course focuses on the various services and agencies that assist children who have developmental disabilities and their families. We'll look at how different programs establish eligibility for their services. Dealing effectively with service providers often requires us to be assertive, so we'll refresh our memories about how to do that. A resource guide that provides extensive information and contact numbers for all the agencies and organizations servicing children with developmental disabilities and their families accompanies this course.

DD3: Foster/Adoptive Parents as Effective Advocates

Instructor: Diana Shultz

This course reviews the federal law (IDEA) that set the standards for what we can expect from the educational system on behalf of any child with a disability. We then talk about what advocates do and the elements of effective advocacy, including the role of assertiveness. There are many websites that can help us advocate on a child's (or family's) behalf and we'll explore some of them.

DD4: Raising Children with Developmental Disabilities: The Impact on Family Life

Instructor: Diana Shultz

This course considers how caring for a child with a developmental disability impacts all aspects of family living, including parents and siblings. Resources and strategies are explored.

DD5: Parenting a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Instructor: Diana Shultz

In this course, we'll look at the definition of ASD, talk about the specific way that ASD is diagnosed, explore who are some of the professionals you'll need to work with and consult with to help a child with ASD, and consider successful intervention strategies that can help a child with ASD manage his or her behaviors and feelings.

Kinship Foster Parents: Caring For Our Own

Caring For Our Own (CFOO) is a nine-session training for **kinship foster parents** (any relative by blood, marriage or adoption, or any person with close family ties). This training is **only available** to those individuals who are currently providing foster care for one or more children to whom they are related or with whom they have close family ties. It does not matter how long a participant has been a kinship foster parent. In order for kinship parents to be in a position to receive the maximum benefit from this offering, **it is strongly recommended that they register for and attend all nine trainings**. Most agencies and districts will not credit this training without completion of all nine classes.

Participants learn how to help the children in their care to better manage their behaviors, receive parenting tips, and are introduced to strategies that can help them develop effective relationships with birth parents and agency/county staff. They benefit from receiving helpful knowledge, understanding, and support from other kinship foster parents and learn that they are not alone in taking on the responsibilities of kinship foster parenting.

CFOO1: Introduction to Caring For Our Own

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This training provides an opportunity for kinship caregivers and the trainer to get acquainted with each other and share a little about personal kinship experiences.

CFOO2: Assessing the Impact of the Children Living in My Home

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This training provides participants with an opportunity to assess the immediate impact of having children live in their homes. It will also assist kinship foster parents in assessing their ability to meet the present needs of the children in their care.

CFOO3: Looking at My Role in Achieving Permanency

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This training provides kinship foster parents with an overview of reunification and adoption and identifies ways in which they can support permanency planning (children leaving foster care). It will also continue to provide participants with the opportunity to assess the strengths and needs of the members of their immediate household and of their extended family members.

CFOO4: Assessing the Strengths and Needs of the Children in My Care

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This training helps kinship foster parents begin to focus on the needs of the children living in their homes and to identify the types of services they need to access to ensure stability in the children's overall growth and development.

CFOO5: Building on the Strengths and Meeting the Needs of the Children in My Care

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This training continues to help kinship foster parents examine the behaviors of the children living in their homes, to identify methods of managing the behaviors, and to identify and access needed services.

CFOO6: Preparing Children and Youth for the Future

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This training assists kinship foster parents in understanding their roles and responsibilities in the education of the children in their care and in preparing youth for independent living.

CFOO7: Understanding the Issues of Birth Parents

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This training provides an opportunity for kinship foster parents to examine the challenges that birth parents face. Participants will gain a better understanding of birth parent issues and how those issues interplay with the kinship foster parent's own issues. The nature of drug addiction in birth parents and how the addiction affects their ability to provide children with permanency (help their children leave foster care) will be explained and explored.

CFOO8: Working with Birth Parents to Achieve Permanency for Their Children

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This training examines how kinship foster parents can redefine their relationship with birth parents in order to ensure children's physical safety and emotional well-being and support birth parents' efforts to achieve permanency (help their children leave foster care).

CFOO9: Networking and Moving Ahead

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This training provides kinship foster parents with the opportunity to complete their assessment of their ability to meet long-term needs of the children in their care. Participants will develop a family plan, which they should later share with their caseworkers for the purpose of planning for the children.

Foster/Adoptive Parent Foundation Classes

Three online classes provide certified foster parents with the foundational information and skills required to work in partnership to achieve safety, well-being, and permanency for the children in their care. Each of these three foundation classes builds on the previous offering, and it is most helpful to take all three. Each course is offered twice so that participants can choose the time that is most convenient for them.

FC1: Using the Helping Skills to Build Relationships

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This class introduces foster parents to the building blocks of a helping relationship. Since successful application of the helping skills is critical to effective interventions that promote the well-being of children, the nonverbal and verbal skills needed to build positive relationships with children and their families are highlighted.

By the end of this class, participants will be able to:

- Identify the building blocks of a helping relationship.
- Identify the nonverbal and verbal helping skills.
- Describe behaviors that demonstrate effective use of the nonverbal helping skills.

FC2: The Ages and Stages of Development

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This class provides foster parents with a key tool, the *Child Development Guide*, and the information necessary to identify the presence or absence of significant skills and abilities at each age and stage of child development, to report important observations to the caseworker and other service providers, and to select and use activities that will support a child's optimal development.

By the end of this class, participants will be able to:

- Recognize the specific skills and abilities characteristic of each age and stage of child development.
- Recognize possible indicators of unmet developmental needs or delays that require further assessment.
- Use the *Child Development Guide* to support the healthy development of the children in their care.

FC3: Supporting Attachment

Instructor: Wendy Neilson

This class uses the Cycle of Attachment model to help foster parents understand the foundation process of children's emotional development and health. The behavioral clues that identify healthy attachments are highlighted. Foster parents learn how to select and use parenting behaviors that support emotional security and attachment in children, as well as how to identify behaviors that may signal unmet needs related to attachment.

By the end of this class, participants will be able to:

- Explain the meaning of the term *attachment*.
- Identify “red flag” behaviors that may signal unmet needs related to attachment.
- Choose to help a child build and maintain attachments to her birth family.
- Select and use parenting behaviors that will maintain and support a child's attachment to his birth family and his foster family.

Foster Fatherhood

You are about to embark on a training adventure—one that will take you into the hearts, minds, and lives of men who want to care in a nurturing way for children who have experienced abuse and/or neglect. The adventure may lead you through hopes and fears, laughter and tears, as well as memorable relationships and experiences. You will deepen your knowledge of meeting children's needs, assuring their well-being, and understanding your role in case planning and will, hopefully, deepen your knowledge of yourself along the way.

As a result of this training, participants will be able to:

- Clarify the relationship between their fathers and their own style of fathering.
- Share their visions of the father they choose to be.
- Explore different cultural styles of fathering.
- Explore the unique roles of fathering daughters and fathering sons.
- Clarify the role of foster/adoptive fathers in case planning.
- Practice communication skills of active listening and reflecting.

These trainings are designed for foster/adoptive fathers.

The Roots of Foster Fatherhood

Instructor: Jack Fuentes

Foster Fathers and Their Impact on Children's Well-Being

Instructor: Jack Fuentes

Foster Father's Role in Case Planning

Instructor: Jack Fuentes

Additional Classes

Fear and Control

Instructor: Diana Shultz Wendy Neilson

Foster parents will gain a better understanding of the dynamics of fear and control issues and learn how these issues can sometimes become barriers to working in partnership with parents of children in foster care and agency staff. This training helps participants to recognize their own fears, as well as those experienced by the parents of children in foster care, the children themselves, and the caseworker involved. Participants will also learn how to identify effective strategies for addressing issues of fear and control.

Mad Is Not Bad! Understanding Anger in Grieving Children

Instructor: Helen Shin

The expression of anger is part of a healthy grieving process. It is part of the journey from hurt to healing. Yet, because it is often so misunderstood, anger may not be allowed its full expression. When children in care are able to express their anger in healthy ways, it can become a great source of energy and positive action. This course offering will help participants to distinguish between constructive and destructive anger, compare chronic and grief-related anger, and identify which needs children are trying meet through anger.

Creating Sibling Harmony

Instructor: Helen Shin

Based on the bestselling book *Siblings Without Rivalry: How to Help Your Children Live Together So You Can Live Too* by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish, this training will challenge the idea that constant, unpleasant conflict among siblings is natural and unavoidable. Participants will learn how to avoid such explosive situations as comparing, assigning roles, or taking sides and instead promote cooperation with practical and easy-to-use techniques.

When Children Move: The Foster Parents' Loss Experience

Instructor: Helen Shin

Having a child in foster care transition out of the home can trigger stages of grief and loss in foster parents and children remaining in the home. This workshop will enable foster parents to better anticipate, identify, and cope with their feelings and make a plan to take care of themselves and their family members.

Overview of Human Sexuality (Two-Part Offering)

Foster/adoptive parents need to find ways to be both comfortable and well-versed when discussing challenging topics with children and youth placed in their homes. These topics often include "the birds and the bees," that is, sexuality, sexual behaviors, and sexual abuse. This

two-part course offering provides an introduction to these dialogues that is knowledge-based and practice-oriented. Participants should have completed an introductory course in normal child development before registering for this course offering. **Participants must be registered for both parts of the course.**

Human Sexuality Part 1

Instructors: Diana Shultz Jennifer Otten

Human Sexuality Part 2

Instructors: Diana Shultz Jennifer Otten

Keeping Your Family Safe

Instructors: Diana Shultz Jennifer Otten

As a result of attending this two-hour training, foster parents will be able to identify child abuse and maltreatment allegation issues and recognize how they can be exposed to these allegations. Participants will be able to identify tools and skills that build and maintain a safe environment in their homes. Participants will assess their own defensive parenting skills.

Managing My Anger

Instructors: Diana Shultz Jennifer Otten

As a result of attending this two-hour *iLinc* training, foster parents will be able to identify those behaviors of others that stimulate anger in themselves. Participants will be able to identify underlying conditions that can result in angry behaviors and list appropriate ways to express anger. Foster parent participants will practice using appropriate methods to express their own angry feelings.

Proactive Responses to Lying

Instructor: Diana Shultz Pura Gonzalez

As a result of attending this two-hour training, foster parents will be able to clarify their values regarding lying and identify reasons children engage in this behavior. Through practice simulations, participants will be able to respond appropriately to children who lie, and make plans to prevent this behavior.

Proactive Responses to Stealing

Instructors: Diana Shultz Pura Gonzalez

As a result of attending this two-hour training, foster parents will be able to clarify their values regarding stealing and identify reasons children engage in this behavior. Through practice simulations, participants will be able to respond appropriately to children who steal, and make plans to prevent this behavior.

Positive Communication Skills for Foster Parents

Instructor: Helen Shin

Many patient and loving foster parents find that they yell, nag, or criticize more often than they want to when dealing with the challenging behaviors of the children in their care. Based on the bestselling book *“How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk”* by Faber and Mazlish, this workshop will help foster parents to avoid the common communication pitfalls and to make small but powerful changes in the words they use every day to:

- effectively help the child who is experiencing negative feelings
- express own anger or frustration without being hurtful
- set firm limits and still maintain the child’s positive self-concept

More Positive Communication Skills for Foster Parents

Instructor: Helen Shin

By popular demand, foster parents can explore even more techniques from the bestselling book *“How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk”* by Faber and Mazlish. This workshop will focus on how foster parents can:

- Encourage autonomy
- Use praise effectively
- Free children from getting stuck in “roles”

This workshop will provide foster/adoptive parents with a guideline for talking about loss and specific things they can say and do to help children at different ages to gain a full understanding of their placement reasons.