

10 THINGS I DO TO REFUEL



Pathways to
Permanence 2

PARTICIPANT
RESOURCE
NOTEBOOK

Parenting
Children
WHO HAVE
Experienced
Trauma
AND LOSS

Session 1

Parenting
Children
with
Extra Needs

Homework

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND OPEN ADOPTION

1. Children are to have access to both birth and adoptive family members.
2. Children are active participants in the decisions that affect his/her life and relationships.
3. Children are to be seen as people, not possessions. Children are adults in training.
4. Self-determination is a fundamental principle under which all other discussion of rights is built. The goal of children's rights is to:
 - o Improve family life, not destroy it
 - o To make children useful, not helpless
 - o To enhance the adult world, not diminish it
 - o To liberate parents, not make them wardens.
5. Children's rights should be seen exclusively, not in the shadow of the rights of the adults involved in their lives.
6. Children have a right to know their genetic history, medical history and to have access to the information about their origins and the circumstances that led to their adoptions.
7. Children should be given this information as they are able to understand it and are able to deal with it emotionally, not as a onetime revelation.
8. Children should not be knowingly deceived, either by what is said or left unsaid. Even potentially disturbing information should be shared with a child at the appropriate age.
9. Information about a child's origins is private (but not secret) information that should not be shared outside the family without the child's permission.
10. Children have the right to express their feelings about the information they are given and should be encouraged and supported as they do.
11. Children have the right to ask questions and express their feelings without worrying that doing so might threaten their relationships with their adoptive parents or birth parents.
12. Children are not responsible for other people's feelings about each other or about the adoption.
13. Parents should not wait for the children to ask questions but should anticipate the child's needs and look for appropriate opportunities to share information.
14. These rights shall be applied to children of every age, even if the children are infants or toddlers and cannot exercise their rights. There is no magic age where people suddenly acquire rights. If rights are not acknowledged as a natural part of every person's life, it is difficult to grow up understanding and expecting them.



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Optional
Reading