

## OVERVIEW OF ADOPTION EVENTS WITH ADOPTONTARIO

### Why have an Adoption Event with AdoptOntario?

Below you will find more information on how AdoptOntario can support you in finding permanency or adoption for a child or youth.



### The Team

The AdoptOntario team supports and works with you to ensure that each voice of any child and youth that is represented at our events, is heard. Each team member, listed below, is there to answer any questions you have along the way on how we can best support you in connecting with families for a child and youth through one of our amazing events.

- **ARE Coordinator | Overall Planning and Execution**
- **ARE Communications-Administrative Coordinator | Communications and Administration**
- **ARE Lead Clinical Coordinator | Clinical and AdoptOntario Online Platform Oversight**
- **Presenting Adoption Workers**
- **Educational and Panel Presenters**

# Which Event Should I Choose?

## Child and Youth Profile Night (CYPN)

This event presents one child/youth or sibling group looking for adoption or permanency. This smaller targeted virtual event helps to identify prospective families for children and youth looking for nurturing family relationships. This event is flexible in terms of who can participate (adoption workers, foster parents, child and youth workers, or any significant people in the child/youth's life). These events allow for unique opportunities to include the child/youth's voice. If you are seeking an adoptive home with very specific matching criteria, this may be the ideal event to consider.

1 host (typically the lead Clinical Coordinator)  
1-2 presenters (adoption workers)

**Weeks of Preparation:** 6 Weeks  
**Time of Event:** 1 hour (7:00 - 8:00PM)

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## Online Adoption Event (OAE)

OAEs are for two or more children and youth profiled by the adoption worker. This event is similar to a CYPN, but we have multiple people presenting for this virtual event. We often have an educational component that blends with the child or youth's background. These events typically have a theme and education and panel presentations that are tailored to the needs of the children and youth being presented. This may be the ideal event to consider if you are seeking adoptive homes for children with similar needs.

1 host (typically the lead Clinical Coordinator)  
2+ presenters (multiple agencies and children/youth being profiled)

**Weeks of Preparation:** 8 Weeks  
**Time of Event:** 1.5-2 hours (7:00 - 9:00PM)

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## Family Profile Events (FPE)

FPEs showcase 1-2 people or families considering adoption or permanency. This event is a live virtual event during the lunch hour. However, a recording\* will be sent to all the attendees after the event. This event is flexible in presentation style depending on worker and family preference and involvement.

**Ideal Timeline:** 6-8 Weeks  
**Time of Event:** 30-60mins (12:00pm)

\* The lead Clinical Coordinator will use their discretion about releasing the recorded presentation. If there is a reason not to share the full recorded presentation, a copy of the family's pre-recordings can be sent to the attendees using a private link.

1 host (typically the lead Clinical Coordinator)  
1+ families (more than one family can be profiled at these events)  
1+ adoption worker/practitioner (sometimes involved)

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## Provincial AREs (Adoption Resource Events)

Provincial AREs allow for all agencies to participate and is open to all prospective parents across Ontario. Education is at the heart of these events. Education/panel presentation components assist families in understanding the permanency needs of children and youth in extended society care. If there are several children you are seeking adoptive homes for, this may be an ideal event to consider.

**Ideal Timeline:** 6 months  
**Virtual or In-Person Events**

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## Regional AREs (Adoption Resource Events)

Regional and Provincial AREs are very similar to each other. Regionals involve more than one agency from a specific region that comes together to profile children and youth from their agencies. Criteria to attend changes depending on the event and the needs of children and youth seeking permanency.

At least two agencies from a region will need to participate to be considered a regional event. If you are seeking adoptive homes for children/youth with specific geographic requirements, this may be an ideal event to consider.

**Ideal Timeline:** 12 weeks (3 months)  
**Virtual or In-Person Event<sup>†</sup>**

<sup>†</sup> Funding is available from AdoptOntario to assist in hosting in-person events.

## Material Needed for the Event

\* Packages are sent out to adoption workers for specific material required with timelines for Provincial and Regional AREs\*

- ✓ 10-15 pictures of child
- ✓ Small video clips of child/youth doing daily tasks  
\*video requirements are different for Regional and Provincial AREs\*
  - Ex: colouring, using a communication device, laughing/talking, playing, favourite activities
- ✓ Pictures of essential aspects of the child
  - Ex: a favourite game/toy, favourite meal, a craft they did or picture they coloured
- ✓ “Day in a life” style script (see below)
- ✓ One or two stories of “favourite moments with the child” from the CYSW or foster parent



## Day-in-a-Life

Script Summary: Please write a 5-7-minute script for the child. Please begin the script from the child’s perspective, narrating what a typical day looks like for the child – from when they wake up until when they go to sleep. After the “day” ends, please conclude the script with any additional information you feel is essential to capture about the child. This includes support(s) needed, recommended readings/research, and matching criteria.

*Please note this is a suggested presentation above. Feel free to speak to your Clinical Coordinator about other ideas and perspectives for scripts.*

## Education and Panel Components

Every event includes a tailored educational component during our events, whether that be a presentation or a panel discussion, including those with lived experiences. AdoptOntario will connect with you to discuss suggestions, perspectives, and ideas for education and panel presentations based on the needs of children and youth.

## Contact Us

We are eager to support you in finding permanency through adoption for children and youth in Extended Society Care. We are here to collaborate with you and answer any questions you might have.

1-877-236-7820 ext. 2222 | [info@adoptontario.ca](mailto:info@adoptontario.ca)

## Testimonials, Success Stories, and Quotes

There were 48 placements in 2021! Of these placements, AdoptOntario assisted with **30** of them! This is through several adoption events and recruitment strategies.

- An older youth sibling group was connected with a family through our “Nurturing Identity” Event seeking Black/Multi-racial families
- A 6-year-old with complex medical needs was connected with a family through a Provincial ARE
- A 17-year-old youth was connected with a family through a tailored Child and Youth Profile Night
- A presenter wrote the following regarding our Provincial ARE:

“Overall, I was pleasantly surprised. I had not participated in virtual ARE events before but have done more than I can count in person, so I wasn’t sure what to expect or how it would go. It was fairly seamless and easy to use. The tech support was great – clear communication and patient support, and I appreciated the check-ins during the event. It was actually kind of nice not to have to travel.”

## Sample Script One | WORKER'S PERSPECTIVE



**Opening:** Hello my name is Jada and I am from XYZ Children's Aid Society and will be presenting Marcus. We are open to considering families who are AdoptReady, or who have begun their homestudy process, and are open to one or two parent homes.

**Introduction to Marcus:** I'd like to introduce you to a terrific young man by the name of Marcus. Marcus is now 15 ½ and I've gotten to know him over the past 10 months. Marcus is white, and our records show that there is some Irish and some French in his background, on the maternal side. Marcus does not identify with a particular religious faith but he'd be open to joining a family who follows a particular faith.

**Personality and Interests:** Marcus would describe himself as "fun, kind, caring, happy". When you first meet Marcus, it doesn't take long to see the "little kid" side to him, despite his appearance as a rather tall adolescent. He has a combination of innocence and wariness in his bright blue eyes. You'll know that he's feeling pretty relaxed when he starts to crack jokes or to goof around. He can be quite sarcastic at times and is very enjoyable to talk to. Generally, he is quite a friendly lad who really enjoys spending one-on-one time with adults.

The "little kid" side of him is evident in a few ways. For example, he has a large collection of stuffed animals, most of which have names and some kind of special significance to him. He craves approval and reassurance from people, especially his caregivers. He is also really affectionate and needs hugs and physical contact, which help make him feel cared for.

Some of Marcus' interests include typical teen stuff like playing video games, going to McDonald's (where he always orders chicken nuggets with sweet and sour sauce), and watching movies. He also enjoys bowling and adventurous outings, such as riding rollercoasters at theme parks. Recently, we played a game where we asked each other what four things we'd take if we had to move somewhere. Marcus' response was his X-box; his DS; his favourite pair of sneakers; and lastly, and most poignantly, a picture of his mom.

Marcus has a real talent for arts and crafts, and he's been really eager to show me the different things he has created over the years. When you see his bedroom, you get a real picture of who Marcus is and what he's all about. It is really personalized – one wall is completely covered with different posters from his favourite movies (such as Star Wars and Captain America); his bed is covered with stuffies; and everywhere else are examples of his art work.

**Living Situation:** Marcus resides in a small, rural town but he has also lived in various suburban and urban environments, so he would adapt well to any kind of place. I believe Marcus has been able to form a sense of security where he is living, in that it is familiar to him and he has formed a genuine emotional bond to the caregivers.

Marcus has done really well in adjusting to the rules and expectations of the residence. He follows curfews and is quite responsible most of the time in following all the daily routines of the home. Because of the relationship he has developed with the caregivers, he tries his best to please them.

**School:** Marcus attends grade 10 in a small class environment that is connected to the local high school. He is working towards being integrated into more classes. Marcus says that he likes his classes in computer tech and art the best. Academically, Marcus seems capable of dealing with his grade level requirements although he likely has many gaps in his learning due to his history of placement and school changes. His ability to focus on his lessons has been helped by the medication he takes.

Socially, Marcus gets along fairly well with the kids at school, but he doesn't seem to have any particularly close friends or "buddies". Some of this is probably attributable to the fact that he lacks the experience with building good relationships with other kids. He would really benefit from having a caring adult to do some coaching on peer relationships, especially on what goes into a healthy relationship with someone.

## Sample Script One | WORKER'S PERSPECTIVE (CONTINUED)



**Openness considerations:** Marcus has periodic contact with his extended family including a grandparent, an uncle, and an older sister. Typically, he will see them during holiday periods and stay over for a few days. These visits are positive for Marcus as they provide him with an opportunity to stay connected with his family. He spends most of his visits playing video games and going out shopping or dog walking. Marcus will also need to have the chance to see his current caregivers from time to time, post-adoption. He will need to know that he is remembered and that people still care about him. Prospective families need to be committed to the prospect of an openness order to enable Marcus to still see his extended family and these visits would likely be around 3 – 4 times per year.

**Matching Considerations:** Marcus is very young at heart in that he likes doing many of the same things that a younger child might – for example playing on slides and monkey bars, or playing with his stuffed toys. He wants to fit in and he wants to please his caregivers. When he makes mistakes, his first impulse is to try and cover up because he doesn't want to get into trouble. Marcus is caught between wanting to be a typical teen boy and yearning to be a little kid. He has missed out on having secure, nurturing bonds with caregivers and he really wants to feel cared for.

Marcus appears eager to be adopted. He rates his desire to be adopted as 8.5 out of 10. Every time he sees me, he wants to have an update on progress in finding him a family. His reason for wanting adoption is so that he can stop moving homes every few years, which has been his experience to date. Marcus has had to adjust to many different homes and caregivers since he was a young boy and has faced much loss over the years.

Marcus has said he is open to any kind of family structure, whether a single parent or two-parent household. People who already have children, especially adopted children, could consider Marcus. He would do better with kids who are around his age or a bit older with whom he could share interests. He could also be placed into a home where there is a very young child so long as the caregivers had the ability to provide lots of attention and supervision.

It will be important for Marcus to have the chance to develop a secure relationship with one or more parental figures who will remain unconditionally committed to him. The prospective family will need to provide Marcus with much attention, activity and ongoing feedback. Although Marcus is capable of having some independence, he needs the nurturing and supervision that is more in line with a younger child. It is important for prospective families to recognize that although they might be adopting a 15.5-year old, Marcus presents more like a 9- or 10-year old in some ways. On the other hand, Marcus is also going to test the waters like most teens will. So he'll need people who are comfortable setting rules and boundaries, with being really consistent, fair and hands-on. People who are able to use humour will be more successful with Marcus than individuals who are more authoritarian in their approach.

Animals in the home would be a great asset in helping Marcus adapt to a new situation. He loves animals of all kind and would love to have a pet.

**Transitioning:** We are open to considering families from anywhere in Ontario for Marcus, so long as a potential family is committed to doing long distance travel for transitional visits over several months. I would anticipate that Marcus could be settled into a new home during the summer months after a period of visiting with a family.

## Sample Script Two | CHILD/YOUTH'S PERSPECTIVE



Hello my name is Marty and I am from XYZ Children's Aid Society and will be presenting Taylor. We are open to considering families who are AdoptReady, and are open to one or two parent homes. We are primarily looking for a family where at least one parent is Korean or of another Asian ethnicity, but we could consider families with other racial backgrounds if they are the right fit. I will be giving this presentation from Taylor's perspective.

Hello everyone, my name's Taylor. I think I'm a pretty cool and fun 9-year old. I wanted to tell you a little bit more about me, some of my strengths, interests and describe my personality.

I'm a very social kid and will always find someone to connect with. I can make friends fairly easily and my friendships are important and meaningful to me.

I am hopeful that an adoptive family can be found for me. I used to live with my younger brother and sister, and still have contact with them both, so it is important for me that this continues. I see them about once a month and sometimes talk to them on the phone or through Zoom.

I have lost lots of important people over the years, but feel settled in my current home. I have made positive relationships with both my foster mother and foster father.

**So what does a typical day look like for me?** When I get up in the mornings, I like to dress in comfy, casual clothing, like sweat pants and t-shirts, and like to wear some more fashionable items to keep up with the latest trends. On a school day, I get ready pretty quickly and have my breakfast. Luckily, cereal and fruit is my absolute favourite thing to have for breakfast and super easy to prepare on busy school mornings!

I currently attend a regular school and am in Grade 3. My teachers think that I might need some extra help with learning and are working on developing an Individual Education Plan for me. I may also be formally identified as having some learning needs, so apparently, I'm going to talk with some people who will help us all figure this out. I am a very bright kid and overall do well with my academic work. I am able to grasp grade-level concepts well. Sometimes I need encouragement to complete all of my school work, but who doesn't at my age?!

After school, I like to play at the park, or go to my friend's houses to hang out and play. Over the summer months, you could find me often at the skateboarding park practicing the latest tricks. In the winter months I enjoy snowboarding.

I enjoy being with my foster siblings and we all try and help out around the house. I have a list of chores and it helps me when these expectations are laid out clearly for me. So that the directions are easy for me to follow, I have them posted inside a cupboard in the kitchen and also in my room. My chores are quite specific, as I need clear instructions to complete tasks. I know that structure and routines work really well for me and I do really well if I know what to expect.

I like to relax in the evening when I can, and will go to bed around 8:00pm on weeknights and a bit later on weekends. I sleep pretty well, and I take some sleep medication to help me with settling down and remaining asleep.

I am a healthy kid overall and am growing well. A few years ago, I had some assessments done and they told me that I need some help with my mood regulation and that I sometimes do things without thinking them through. The assessments also spoke about me having anxiety and that I worried about my birth family. Luckily, I see a wonderful therapist who helps give me ways to cope with these feelings. Sometimes we play with fun things like toy figures and sensory bins!

**So how would it be living with me?** Sometimes I can see things a certain way and I often will take things literally. At these times I will need a parent to help me understand how to navigate the situation. Given that I'm 9, a lot of these situations happen in my friendships. Sometimes I can miss subtle cues with my peers and then need help to figure out solutions. When I get frustrated I need a trusting adult to help me. A calm, patient approach from my teachers and caregivers helps me during these times.

## Sample Script Two | CHILD/YOUTH'S PERSPECTIVE (CONTINUED)

I need to feel safe, accepted and loved. I am really funny and love to talk things out with people. I have a fantastic sense of humour, which sometimes can be witty and dry. I love it when people 'get' me, which is important to my sense of self and well-being.

I can make you laugh out loud with my comments sometimes. It's important that you know that I need to fidget when I'm focusing. This may look like I'm not paying attention, but I really am and can tell you exactly what we've been talking about. Trust me, my foster mom has asked many times for me to repeat back what we've been talking about and I've nailed it every time! I know that I need to fidget and can recognize that this helps me concentrate, especially at school!

I'm working on understanding how to be more empathetic towards others, even though I'm really quite caring, I miss some of these cues in others and find myself feeling like I missed stuff, or got it a bit wrong. I am very good at protecting myself and telling you what I need.

I wanted to share that a few weeks ago I went on a trip with my foster family to Grand Cayman. It was my first time on a plane and I enjoyed this a lot. When my worker asked me what I liked about the trip I told her that I liked swimming in the ocean, but the pools were 'freezing'. The best part about the whole week was getting to ride on a Segway and tour around the resort. Actually, I love all things to do with technology or mechanics.

**So what does Taylor say are his biggest strengths, talents and worries?** I feel that my biggest strengths are my musical talents, that I'm a good friend, that I try really hard in school and that I can master new skateboarding tricks pretty quickly. I worry mostly about not having a home and about whether my birth family is doing okay.

Like I told my therapist recently, I've gotten better at thinking before I act or talk and telling grown-ups when I need help. I'm also really proud that I'm nearly as tall as my foster mother...can you believe it?! I'm a really good skateboarder and good at playing the piano. Did you know that I can make up songs all by myself on the piano and also read music?

Recently, I've become really good at working hard on all my school work. I even often complete my assigned homework during the school day, so I don't have to do it at night. This is great because it means more time to play outside, skateboard, and practice piano! I recently received a positive report card, with mostly goods and satisfactory in the six core areas.

**What would an ideal family look like for Taylor?** I need a family who is nurturing, and also able to support solid routines and clear expectations. Ideally, the family would share my Korean heritage. However, my worker is able to consider families who are not of the same racial background and can demonstrate their commitment and understanding of my racial and cultural needs. My preference is for a two-parent family, but a strong single parent with a diverse network and experience would also be considered.

I would love to be the only child in my adoptive family, or I could also have other siblings who are either younger or a similar age to me. My adoptive family would need to be able to speak up for what I need, at bigger things like school but also at soccer practice and piano lessons. Since I seem to have an endless amount of energy, a family who is active and energetic would be the best fit for me. Some understanding of how trauma, grief, loss and attachment can impact youth in care would also be really helpful for me.

I will also need to keep up a relationship with my younger siblings. They are an important part of my life even though we don't live together. The frequency and location of this contact will need to be sorted out, but I need you to know how important it is to me, even if I feel a little bit upset afterwards. A decision was made to seek separate adoptive families for me and my siblings, but I look forward to continuing to share in important events with them! One day, I hope we can go to skateboarding camp together.

Thank you for listening and learning a little bit more about me!