



ACT

**Participant
Resource
Notebook**

A

*Developmental
Perspective*

**Activity
Worksheets**

ACT SESSION 4

Activity Worksheets

THE FOUR WALLS WORKSHEET



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Wall #1 - The Formative Years

Developmental Tasks:

Feelings / Thoughts:

Adoption Professional and Adoptive Parent Tasks:

Tools:



Birth to approximately 5 years

THE FOUR WALLS



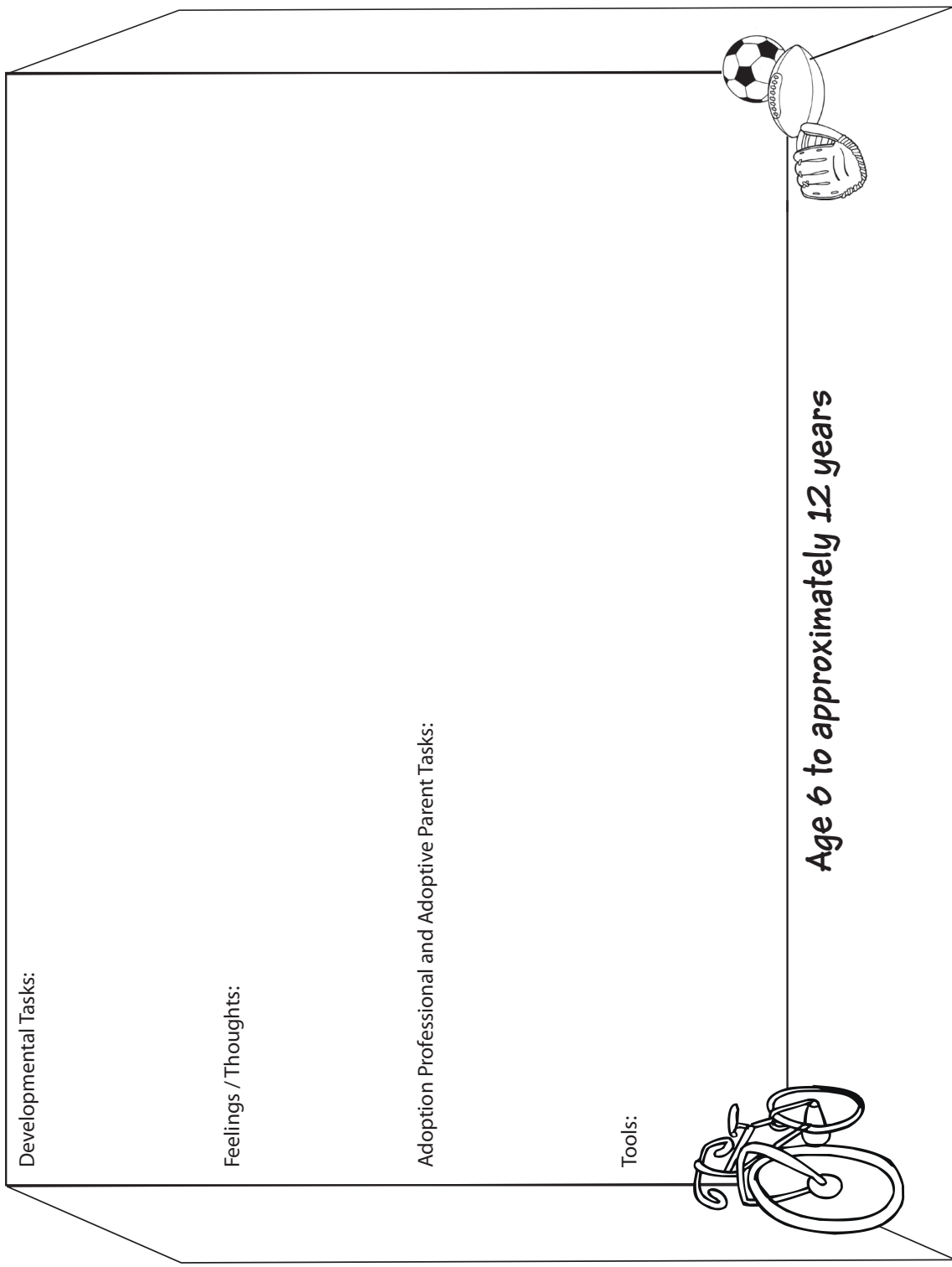
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Wall #2 - The Latency Years



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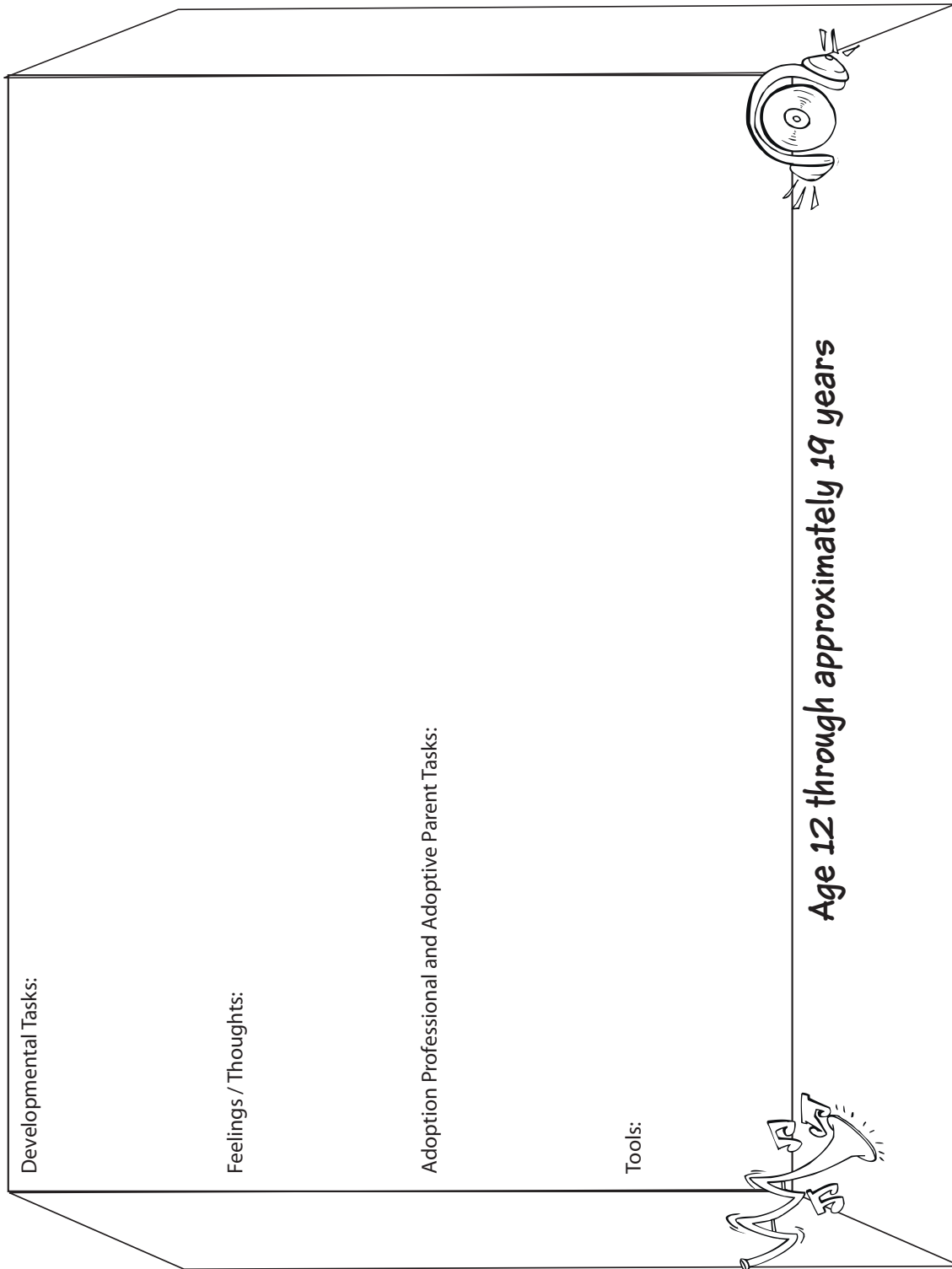
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Wall #3 - Adolescence



THE FOUR WALLS WORKSHEET



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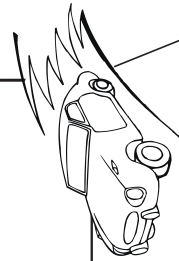
Wall #4 - Adulthood

Developmental Tasks:

Feelings / Thoughts:

Adoption Professional and Adoptive Parent Tasks:

Tools:



Age 20 and older



Vignette # 1

(page 4-83)

A young woman is impregnated during a gang rape by four men in Windsor. She travelled to North Bay when she was five months pregnant, received no prenatal care for the duration of her pregnancy, and arrived at the hospital just in time to deliver twins at 35 weeks, approximately. After the twins were born, the birth mother decided to make an adoption plan for her children. With the support and assistance of the hospital social worker, she was referred to a licensed adoption agency. At the birth mother's request, the children were placed directly from the hospital into an adoptive family. Minimal information was shared with the adoption agency and the birth mother was clear that she did not want further contact from the agency or the adoptive parents after placement. Feeling ashamed, and frightened of rejection by her family, the birth mother returned to Windsor, vowing never to share her experience, including the birth of her children, with her family or friends.

Please address the following questions:

	<p>Identify some of the sensitive issues unique to this case:</p>
	<p>What are some of the personal biases and beliefs that may get in the way of the work we do with the adoptive parents?</p>
	<p>What words could adoption professionals use to explain to the twins their birth history at ages 5, 8, 12 & 17? (Please give specific examples)</p>
	<p>How can adoption professionals ensure that adoptive parents are coming to terms with and capable of imparting important background information to their children?</p>

Vignette # 2

(page 4-84)

Sam was taken into protective custody at age two, after being found unattended at an Owen Sound Laundromat. His birth parents were diagnosed with chronic mental illnesses and resided in a halfway house. Sam was undernourished and had little language or social skills. From infancy he had lived a transient lifestyle, often left with strangers when his birth parents were in jail or hospitalized. Sam was adopted by the couple that were his first foster parents. They met Sam's birth parents on several occasions before the adoption was finalized. Sam has little memory of his birth parents.

Please address the following questions:

What makes this subject difficult for us?	
What are some of the personal biases and beliefs that may get in the way of the work we do with the adoptive parents?	
What words could adoption professionals use to explain to Sam his birth history at ages: 5, 8, 12 & 17? (Please give specific examples)	
How can adoption professionals ensure that adoptive parents are coming to terms with and capable of imparting important background information to their children?	

Vignette # 3

(page 4-85)

An 18 year-old woman gave birth to a baby girl and left the newborn at the entrance of a Stratford hospital when she was only hours old. The baby, later named Madison, was placed with an emergency foster family and a few weeks later moved to an adoptive family. Madison's birth mother left a short note describing her remorse and a wish that her daughter would be placed with parents who were ready to care for a child.

Please address the following questions:

What makes this subject difficult for us?	
What are some of the personal biases and beliefs that may get in the way of the work we do with the adoptive parents	
What words could adoption professionals use to explain to Madison her birth history at ages: 5, 8, 12 & 17? <i>(Please give specific examples)</i>	
How can adoption professionals ensure that adoptive parents are coming to terms with and capable of imparting important background information to their children?	

Vignette # 4

(page 4-86)

Three children, ages 1, 3, and 4, were taken into protective custody in Hamilton and placed with separate foster families due to their special needs. The youngest, Savannah, and the middle child, Austin, were later reunited in an adoptive family, and the oldest, Zachary, was adopted by a second family. Their birth history included prenatal exposure to drugs and alcohol and sexual abuse by both parents. Savannah had no conscious memory of her birth parents or the events that preceded her removal/apprehension but the brothers have recounted several “scary” incidents and continue to have ongoing night terrors stemming from their previous life experiences regarding their toddler years.

Please address the following questions:

	<p>What makes this subject difficult for us?</p>
	<p>What are some of the personal biases and beliefs that may get in the way of the work we do with the adoptive parents</p>
	<p>What words could adoption professionals use to explain to these children their birth histories at ages: 5, 8, 12 & 17? (Please give specific example)</p>
	<p>How can adoption professionals ensure that adoptive parents are coming to terms with and capable of imparting important background information to their children?</p>