

## VISION MATCHING

Purpose: Sharon Roszia, ACT co-developer, created the Vision Matching model as a process in which all the parties involved in the child's adoption can express expectations regarding how their relationships may look over time (Melina & Roszia, 1993). Thus, areas of concern, or of potential misunderstandings, regarding the nature of the relationship may be addressed. This is not a legal process, it is more about building relationships and trust.

### Potential participants:

- Birth parents
- Adoptive parents
- Former caregivers
- Extended birth family
- Adoption professional in the role of coach/educator

### Elements:

- A meeting, or series of meetings, among all parties and the coach/educator
- A written agreement, which is not legally binding, outlining the plan for future contact
- Guidelines for how future meetings will be scheduled and held

### Points to be addressed:

- Needs of the child
- Reasons why the child cannot grow up in the birth family
- Reasons why the adoptive family would be able to meet the child's needs
- What the birth family can offer the child
- The needs of current or future siblings
- The wishes of the birth parents and adoptive parents for future contact
- The details of future contact (how and when it will occur)
- Financial issues (who will pay for travel costs, phone bills, etc.)
- What would happen to cancel the agreement?
- How will future mediations occur?
- At what age or stage of development does the child have a say in the agreement?

### Reference

Melina, L.R., & Roszia, S.K. (1993). *The open adoption experience*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers.



# ACT

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