

Tips on Preparing Preverbal Children for Move to Adoptive Family

Emphasis is on transferring attachment and caregiver routines.

- ❖ The younger the child the more attention to sensory experiences

Duplicate as many items as possible Ex. same type of nipples for feeding infant.

Sense of smell highly developed – use the same baby products (soaps, detergents, fabric softeners)

- ❖ As child gets older their use of sight and sound to process the world increases.

Familiar mobile over the crib

Other familiar toys

Same type of music played as in the foster home

- ❖ Adoptive parents primary goal is meeting the child's needs. Help the child learn to trust their (parents) ability to care for him.

Extensive contact allows the child to receive the message from foster parent that it is okay to like, take from and to get close to the adoptive parents.

Foster parents can give the message by extending the attachments

Adoptive parent begins to take over some of the routine tasks. Ex. Foster parent hands the spoon/bottle to adoptive parents, changing diapers, tuck into bed, hugs& kisses to adoptive parent too.

Include foster family members – ritualized play – playing on the floor together, taking turns lifting the toddler up