

PARENTING CASE STUDIES

Hartman Family

Dan and Betty Hartman have been married 23 years and are in their early forties. They have a son, age 19 in college, and a daughter age 22 that just got married. The Hartman's feel that they will be able to parent teens with no problem, as they had no problems with their own. They are looking forward to having the house full of kids again and have decorated and filled the bedrooms with everything they think teens could possibly want.

The Hartman's plan to adopt Anna and Allison, 13-year-old twins. The girls are currently living in foster care in another county. You know that the foster family planned to adopt them, but changed their minds. The Profile on the girls says "The twins are cute and vivacious. Anna and Allison have been in foster care for 10 years. They have had some problems in the current foster home, but have done well in school, despite numerous moves. The girls like to have lots of attention and can occasionally be demanding. They are typical teens, very social and busy. Both girls look forward to having a home to call their own, Anna and Allison will do best in a two parent family with an "at home" Mom.

You, the assigned adoption caseworker have had difficulty getting much more information from the caseworker. Your brief conversation with the foster Mom makes you concerned that the girls may have serious behavior problems associated with **RAD**.

1. What concerns do you have about this adoption?
2. How would you suggest the Hartman's structure their home in preparation?
3. What referrals would you make? Why?
4. What training/resources would you provide?

PARENTING CASE STUDIES

Donyeh (age 18 months)

Donyeh is a cute, chubby toddler who entered foster care with his teen Mom when she was pregnant. Donyeh was 'colicky' as an infant, crying for many hours each day, pushing away from Mom, eating and sleeping poorly. Mom lost interest in being a Mom and soon the foster Mom took over all of Donyeh's care. Multiple doctors' visits and many tests could not identify and resolve the problem, and Donyeh remained 'colicky' until age 10 months, when he began to walk. After this, he seemed to calm down and sleep and eat better. Donyeh continues to resist holding and avoids eye contact. He is very active, more so than is typical for this age. He has terrible temper tantrums, especially when told "no" and the foster Mom is unable to re-direct his attention.

Mom has agreed to voluntarily terminate her parental rights and wants the foster family to adopt Donyeh. The family has always been anxious to adopt a young child, but are concerned about Donyeh's future behaviors.

1. What concerns do you have about this adoption?
2. How would you suggest the Hartman's structure their home in preparation?
3. What referrals would you make? Why?
4. What training/resources would you provide?

PARENTING CASE STUDIES

Phillips Family

Lori and Matt Phillips have been married for five years, they are in their late twenties. They have no children and are planning to adopt Tyler, age 5. Tyler has been identified as having RAD

1. How would you help the Phillips prepare for Tyler's arrival for his first visit next week?
2. What would you recommend they do over the next month in preparation for Tyler moving to their home?
3. How could they nurture their own relationship once Tyler is adopted?
4. What referrals would you make?