

## TRANSITIONS

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### FROM FOSTER CHILD TO ADOPTED CHILD

#### [Helping Your Foster Child Transition to Your Adopted Child](#)

For foster families who choose to adopt the child or children in their care, there are a number of ways to help these children make the emotional transition for being “a ward of the State or the Court” to being “a son or daughter” of specific parents. While parents may appreciate the difference in the child’s role within their family, children may not clearly comprehend the difference between being a foster child versus being an adopted child when they continue to live in the same family. There are specific things families can say and do to help children understand these differences. This factsheet, available from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, describes:

- Talking with children about the changes
- Activities to help children understand their own history and background
- Helping children adjust to losses
- Helping children transfer attachments

US Dept H & HS Child Welfare Information Gateway, [Helping Your Foster Child Transition to Your Adopted Child](#) (2005). <[www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f\\_transition.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_transition.cfm)> [as of 12/28/2011].