

MARCH 19, 2019

Adoptive Families Give Suggestions for an Ice-Breaker Meeting with a 10-year old

Q: We are adopting from foster care and have an "ice breaker" meeting with a 10-year-old boy scheduled for tomorrow. I'm super nervous. Attempting to make a connection with a little boy we've never met before seems awkward enough, but we'll be doing this in front of a case worker. Anyone have any advice they can share about this first meeting, or the next steps of the process?

Members of adoptivefamiliescircle.com respond:

"It depends upon how much the young man knows at this stage, but we prepared a photo album for our seven-year-old daughter. It was after she had been told we were prospective parents but before she visited our home for the first time. It was a small album with photos of our home, neighborhood, church, friends, hobbies, and so on. We didn't have pets or other children at the time, but you could add relevant photos that reflect your lives. It was a lot more fun when visits began. We went to all kinds of places with her."

"Bring a fun game to play with him. Something silly, that will make all of you laugh."

"Some kids feel 'tricked' when these visits are all about fun, treats, and play, and then they get home and it is about brushing teeth, chores, and homework. Perhaps not on this very first visit, but maybe the second, you might discuss things like is he used to doing chores? What does he like to do? How does he like to do homework—on the kitchen table, at a desk, or sprawled on the floor? Questions that will give him the idea that your home will be loving and fun, but not only fun; he will have responsibilities as well."

NEED HELP WITH SUMMER CAMP FEES?

HAVE YOU STARTED PLANNING FOR YOUR KIDS' SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE? IFAPA HAS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH CAMP FEES FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE THAT ARE AGE 13 AND UNDER. HERE'S A LISTING OF SUMMER CAMPS IN IOWA.

[Iowa Summer Camps](#)

Click Here for a copy of the Friends program application and information, when you find the perfect summer camp for your kiddos.

[Friends Program Information/Application](#)

ADOPTING AS A SINGLE PARENT

By: Coalition for Children, Youth & Families

One third of adoptions of children and youth from foster care are completed by single parents. And, while single women account for the majority of those adoptions, the number of single males who are adopting is on the rise.

Quite often, those considering single parenting worry about "being enough" for a child; if they have the time, energy, resources, and everything that a parent needs. This week, we want to share some of the lessons a child can learn from a single parent:

Community--Any single parent will tell you having a strong support system is key to successful parenting. (This is true of two-parent families as well!) Children of single adoptive parents learn about the importance of connection to others outside the family and the community as a whole. They become good "villagers" and appreciate a sense of responsibility toward others.

Independence and Self-sufficiency--As much as you sometimes wish otherwise, you can only be in one place and do one thing at a time. Children of single parent adoptive families often learn to do things for themselves and feel like they are valuable contributors to the family at an earlier age. This builds self-esteem and teaches them to consider the needs of others.

Hard Work/Resilience--A single adoptive parent has to do the work of two people. This can often require creative problem solving and resilience that will teach children a strong work ethic and a "can do" attitude.

Close bonds--Both the parent and child(ren) in a single parent adoption have the benefit of not having to divide their time and attention with another adult in the home. This offers opportunities for more focused attention and bonding, and closer relationships.

That is not to say that parenting as a couple cannot offer the same advantages or that there is one type of household make-up that is better or worse than another for any given child. Whether the adoptive family is a single parent, two parent, grandparent, or any other kind of parent, what's important is that we come to parenting offering children the very best we have to give. The Coalition is proud to be a partner for all types of parents and families--please reach out whenever you need a little extra support!

IEP Checklist for Parents

Whether you're working with your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to develop her very first IEP or you're reviewing her existing IEP, you'll want to make sure every detail and concern is addressed. Use this comprehensive checklist from the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) to determine if your child's IEP contains all of the components required by IDEA (Individual with Disabilities Education Act). Remember to provide your input to the school in advance of your child's IEP meeting.

[Click Here for IEP Tips for Parents](#)

Tips for a Successful IEP Meeting

Want to be the MVP on your child's IEP Team? The NCLD also offers advice to help parents feel more confident and better prepared before, during, and after each IEP meeting.

[Click Here for IEP Meeting Tips](#)