

Matching Assistance Program

Typical impacts on child's development when placed in foster care

Children's social, emotional and intellectual development may be undermined when they are placed in care, especially if there is a disruption in the parent/child bond sometime during the child's first three years. The developing brain is in high gear in this early period, laying foundational tracks for future successful relationships and problem-solving ability. A disruption in the parent/child bond, even a bond that is not optimal, may interfere with normal child development in many areas.

New substitute caregivers should not be surprised to see children with difficulties in the following areas, once they are placed in care:

1. Regression in formerly mastered developmental tasks;
2. Difficulty developing trust in self and others;
3. Difficulty developing or maintaining close relationships;
4. Poor conscience development (understanding right vs. wrong); and
5. Poor cause-and-effect reasoning (difficulty solving problems and making healthy choices).

Ways to build resiliency in traumatized children

Emphasizing resilience traits reinforces positive coping skills and self-esteem. Here are some suggestions:

The child is assigned small tasks appropriate to her skills and interests.

The helper notices and remarks favorably on the child's appropriate humor.

The helper provides at least two solutions to a problem and allows the child to choose one of them.

The child is asked to provide at least two solutions to a problem.

The helper introduces hypothetical planning exercises.

New concepts about how to live one's life are introduced. For example, the helper can take the child to the library, to museums,



Frances & Ronel

#KY126

This is Frances (born 1/98) and her little brother, Ronel (born 1/04). These siblings are close and will need to remain together. Frances is old enough to know what adoption means and, to be honest, she is a little nervous about it. She is not sure how she feels about moving into a new family that she doesn't know. Although she is learning the positive things about what being adopted would mean for her and her brother, she is reluctant - but willing to learn more if the "right family" comes forward. Frances is a beautiful pre-teen who makes friends easily and makes good grades in school. She loves to read! She is also a pretty good soccer player! Frances can be very friendly, social, and fun - although she does have her guard up about being adopted and feels responsibility for her little brother. Ronel described adoption as "getting a whole new family". He would like to have a permanent family, but still misses his birth family. Ronel is talkative and funny. He loves Spiderman and Scooby Doo. Ronel is an intelligent and honest little boy who is very inquisitive for his age. He follows his big sister's lead and enjoys her attention. This

to different parts of the community to let him or her experience options.

The helper introduces a hobby, craft or skill such as knitting, woodworking, art, sewing or cooking.

The child's perceptions of reality are affirmed when the helper asks her what she thinks and believes.

The helper reinforces the child's skills by asking her to demonstrate how to throw a ball, sing, write a story, tell a joke, etc.

The helper and the child play board games. Games like "Monopoly," "Chutes and Ladders" and "Sorry" reinforce problem-solving skills.

The helper can share stories about people who successfully overcame difficult experiences and adversity.

The child needs opportunities to express spirituality. Some children may desire a private place to pray. Still others may want to attend a church. A child may also need to share spirituality with another person.

All accomplishments, large and small, can be celebrated.

The helper can send a "Thinking of you" card to the child.

sibling pair will be a joy to parent. They are cute and fun. They will need adoptive parents who are compassionate and understand that they will need support in making the transition from foster care to adoption. They have loss issues. They have worries on their minds, but love in their hearts. If you have the desire to love and work with children, these may be the children who could fit into your family.

Frances and Ronel deserve to have a forever family.

to provide support and supervision. He needs help with his low self esteem and his lack of personal safety skills.

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