

A Family For Every Child Matching Assistance



*"We should not be asking who this child belongs to,
but who belongs to this child."*

Biography and Photo

Your family biography is a very important recruitment tool that we may use to connect your family with caseworkers. It allows caseworkers to get know your family better on a more personal level, and can make your family stand out in their mind. Families who have a well-written biography with nice photos are inquired about more than those who have no biography written! The following is what you should include in your family biography:

- **Child Preferences:** Start your biography with some general information about your child preferences-boy, girl, age range, sibling group size, ethnicities, and special needs level. If you're seeking to adopt a child of a different ethnicity, talk about how you will honor your child's heritage and make them feel welcome in your home and community. In addition, briefly mention the type of contact you are willing to have with the child's biological and foster family. Keep in mind that some level of contact might be necessary between the child and their previous family. It is important that your child preferences are listed **first** as this will be the first line a searching caseworker will see to determine if you will be a good match for any of the children on their caseload. Families who list their child preferences in their biography are inquired about more than those who do not!
- **Introduction:** Include information on your interests, activities you partake in, what your profession(s) are, and what your work schedule(s) are like. Many adoption professionals state that personality is the most important area on which to focus in determining a good fit between children and families. Keep in mind that common interests are often a bridge to developing a relationship with a child, so include activities that you **and** a child would enjoy.
- **Home and Community:** Briefly describe your home and community. Include some information on activities in your area that a child would want to partake in. Briefly talk about the schools in your area, and talk about your childcare plans if your child is not school-age. Keep in mind that caseworkers are not keen on daycare, so explore some alternatives if possible.

- **Parenting Experience/Trainings:** Write about your parenting experiences, and the strengths you and your family bring to the table. Parenting experience doesn't have to come from parenting your own children-if you watch your nieces and nephews, if you're a teacher, a foster parent, a mentor, CASA, Big Brother/Big Sister, etc.-that is all great experience with kids, and it counts as parenting experience! Include some information on the trainings you have completed, above and beyond the standard pre-service training. These trainings can be books you've read, webinars you've watched/listened to, DVDs you've watched, parenting articles you've read, etc. You want the caseworker to know that you are familiar and well-equipped to handle the challenges that will come your way. Check out our [resources](#) page to expand your knowledge on the various challenges foster children and parents face.
- **Support:** Write about your support system. This support can come from family members, friends, or organizations in your community. This is especially important for single parents. If you're seeking to adopt a child of a different race or gender, mention family members, friends or community organizations that could serve as a role model for your child.
- **Motivation to Adopt:** Write about your commitment to the child/children you are seeking to adopt, and that you will not give up on them, despite the challenges that will come your way. Caseworkers want to know that you will love and care for this child forever, no matter what.

Include about 6 clear, color photos of your home, the people in your home, and a couple pictures of your pets. You can have more or less than 6 photos; your photos and text should balance each other out. Make sure your photos are not blurry, and not taken at a distance; we should be able to see your faces clearly. Do not post scrapbook page photos here. Make sure to include photos of only the people in the home/people that will be around the child a lot (parents, good friends). Avoid posting photos with large groups of people, as this can be confusing to a caseworker and overwhelming to a child.