



Quick Video Tips: Children videos

General Tips

1. Be sensitive to the child's fear of the camera. Let them play with it if you can and let them video each other then play it back.
2. Avoid filming in front of bright windows.
3. Never turn the camera sideways while filming.
4. If the child talks softly, move the microphone closer to the child.
5. Avoid zooming in or out during a shot.

What to film: Getting the basic shots

1. **Main interview** (about 3-6 minutes)
 - Avoid profiles - allow the camera to see both of the child's eyes.
 - Turn off radios, TVs or other distracting background noises.
 - Ask basic questions like:
 - What is your name, how old are you
 - What subjects do you like in school?
 - If you had 3 wishes, what would they be?
 - What makes you laugh?
 - What sports do you enjoy? Why?
 - What do you do when you are with your friends?
 - What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?
 - What's your favorite animal?
 - If appropriate, why do you want a forever family?
 - If appropriate, what are some things you might want in a forever family? (Would they have pets, other kids? What would they do for fun?)



2. **Everyday action shots** (3-5 activities, 1-3 minutes of footage for each activity) Examples:

- If possible, show siblings hugging, or touching: this shows attachment, which is a huge fear for parents- that the child they adopt won't attach, also if there are animals this is another hot button for parents.
- Have the child read a favorite book aloud
- Riding a bike or taking a walk
- Playing on a swing set or kicking a soccer ball
- Blowing bubbles
- Singing a song
- Making a silly face
- Have the child show you his/her favorite toys or pet
- Having his/her picture taken (If filming during a photo shoot)

