

The information-sharing continuum

PEOPLE GENERALLY INTERESTED IN ADOPTION (THE PUBLIC)

What's shared: Positive, strengths-based information such as children's talents, dreams, hobbies, and interests

What's NOT shared: Challenges or disabilities; private or personal information

How: Photolisting websites, Heart Galleries, flyers, TV/radio, newspapers, social media

Goal: Interest families and help them feel a connection to the child, so they move forward in learning more about adoption

PROSPECTIVE ADOPTERS WHO HAVE AN APPROVED HOME STUDY AND HAVE BEEN THROUGH TRAINING

What's shared: A child's level of functioning in various areas (physical, cognitive, emotional, etc.), general and factual information about disabilities, behaviors, educational and intellectual functioning

What's NOT shared: Details on disabilities or challenges; placement or abuse history; birth family information

How: Private profiles on photolisting websites, email or printed documents available only to trained/home-studied families who have signed confidentiality agreements

Goal: Allow families to begin to consider if their family might be a good fit for this child, so they submit a home study

PROSPECTIVE ADOPTERS WHO ARE MOVING TOWARD PLACEMENT OF A CHILD AND WHOM WORKERS THINK ARE A GOOD MATCH FOR A CHILD

What's shared: All diagnosis and treatment information, details about ongoing care needs; birth family, placement, and abuse history

How: Conversations between child's worker and family's worker, then conversations between the professionals and the prospective adopters

Goal: Enable prospective adopters and professionals to determine if the family is able to meet the child's needs and can move forward with adoption