



***Diversity: Embrace it, share it, celebrate it!***

## ***Adopting Outside Your Race: Love is the Key to Diversity***

Adoption as a whole is a huge commitment and challenge. You may ask, why? Adoption takes a lot of commitment for those whose decision it is to adopt a child that is not their own. They will raise this child and care for them as if the child were their own and love them unconditionally. Although this seems standard for those that adopt, it does take a great deal of mental strength to grasp that the child they adopt will have differences from those who have adopted him or her, but also that the child will have difference based on race and culture.

**Transcultural** adoption is an adoption which crosses cultural boundaries, with the adoptive child being of a different culture than that of the adoptive parents. Many transcultural adoptions are also **transracial**, which means that the child has a different racial background in addition to a different cultural background. Both transcultural and transracial adoption are extremely common in the United States, but they are surrounded by complex social and cultural issues. There will be issues that both adoptive parents will face as well as the child based on societies standards.

Some parents will experience the stares and pointed fingers from afar or the blatant comments from strangers. This can pose

as a challenge to some parents. Adoptive parents may be thinking can I parent a child of another race or culture? Do I know anything about their race and culture? What will others think of my decision?

These thoughts as well as a slew insecurities will rise during these moments as children and parents will second guess themselves as people and struggle to "find their place in the world." Regardless, families who have adopted a child outside of their race and culture will note that even though these challenges are present there are ways to overcome them and be happy as a family. There are important rules to follow if this is the route of adoption you choose to take.

**1. Do not accept racial remarks or comments within the household:**

*As the parent you must create an environment that will empower the child and build their self-confidence. You must acknowledge and not ignore when a comment is made to show the child that you care and are sensitive to this matter. This will show that you understand the issues that the child will face. With the help and support of the parents, the child knows that he or she can overcome adversity.*

**2. Invest in parenting:**

*You will need to know all sorts of scenarios that may come to play when adopting a child of another race or culture. You can invest in parenting by attending support groups and training's that will better equip adoptive parents with the racial and cultural dilemmas your child will face.*

**Support Network:** *Surround yourself and your child with those that are supportive of your decision and create a welcoming environment for your child.*

**4. Celebrate cultures and other races:** *Expose your child to his or her own cultural group through community events and have yourself placed as the minority. By doing this the child will feel empowered by his or her cultural group and understand that the world is a melting pot and each cultural group contributes to our world's diversity.*

**[Click here](#) to find out more about our adoption agency and**

**services!**



## Mentor Program

A Family For Every Child's Mentor Program is currently seeking mentors of diverse backgrounds to be matched with youth in the foster care system. As we continuously seek new mentors we acknowledge the input that children in foster care are asking of us. Children that grow up in foster care that are of a different culture or race are most commonly in a home of Caucasian foster parents. These children may not be surrounded by people that share their cultural similarities or worse could never be exposed to their cultural group. A mentor that shares his or her culture or race can help expose a child in foster care to more people whom the child can relate to and create a better understanding of a child's roots and help the child understand where they came from. Most importantly, the child will feel empowered and have better self-esteem.



***If you are interested in being a mentor and would like more information please contact [mentor@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:mentor@afamilyforeverychild.org) or [click here](#) to see a list of children needing mentors.***



### ***Grant a Wish***

Kids need many things to assist them on their path to adulthood. Wishes can be as simple as new school clothes, a



### ***Legacy Giving***

Leave a Legacy through planned living. [Click here](#) to learn more



### ***Family Finding***

[Click here](#) to read about a Family Finding Success Story and learn more about our

bike, basketball hoop or dance lessons. If you would like to Grant A Wish for a foster youth please contact [carrie.gilliland@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:carrie.gilliland@afamilyforeverychild.org)

about Legacy Giving and how you can give back to kids in the foster care system.

[Family Finding Program](#)

Copyright © 2014. All Rights Reserved.

A Family For Every Child | 1675 W 11th Avenue | Eugene | OR | 97402