

**A Family For Every Child
Adoption Agency**



"Adoption is not about finding children for families, it's about finding families for children"



A Family For Every Child

March 2015

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Your Child's Story: Tips from an Adoptive Parent

By: Debbie Schugg

The following suggestions come from an adoptive Mother of children who have experienced complex trauma. She is also an experienced trainer of both parents and professionals in the areas of adoption and permanency for children who have experienced trauma and loss.

Tips for Talking to Children About Their Story:

- Start early, tailoring what you say to the child's developmental stage.
- Make sure that whatever you say, no matter how simple, is TRUE. You want to be able to build truth upon truth upon truth as your child, your relationship, and the ongoing dialogue mature and grow. Having to retract/replace what you've said earlier undermines trust and leads to feeling of betrayal.
- Remember that if you don't provide an accurate account, to the best of your ability, at any given stage, the child will come up with his/her own version, one which usually places the blame on herself and exacerbates her sense of shame.
- Check your own feelings/biases/triggers around the topic area.

Figure out what it's going to take to get comfortable with the topic. Does that mean talking with others who have discussed it with their kids? Practicing with a stuffed animal? With another trusted adult? Role playing with your partner, social worker, or therapist?

These are just a few of the tips from Debbie for talking with your child about their story. [Click here to see more!](#)

A Family For Every Child can help you be that change in a Child's World!



[Click here to walk through the adoption process!](#)

We are an inclusive agency that serves all **Oregon and Washington** families. We specialize in finding forever families for children in the foster care system. Our child centered approach creates a unique adoption experience for families interested in adopting

children from foster care. With our numerous programs, we help connect foster children to their forever families by assisting our agency families through each step of the adoption journey. We know that every child deserves to be loved, and no child will outgrow the need for a "forever family." [Learn more about the basics of adoption here](#)

Why Not Me?

Below are quotes from children in foster care on why they deserve a Forever Family

- I deserve to have someones eyes light up when they see me!
- I deserve to have the whole room sing Happy Birthday at my own birthday party!
- I deserve to have a Grandpa, Grandma, Uncles, Aunts, and Cousins!
- I deserve to know where I am going to be today, tomorrow, and always!
- I deserve to have the same person tuck me in bed every night!
- I deserve to have someone come to my school performances!

- I deserve to hear how great I am every day!
- I deserve to have someone love me even when I am unlovable!
- I deserve to be embarrassed by my parents when I am a teenager, because they are my parents!
- **I DESERVE TO NOT WAIT ANY LONGER!**

How is A Family For Every Child Different?

3 Ways AFFEC Can Help You in Your Adoption Journey



1. Online Child Matching Events

During these events, social workers present 5-10 minutes of information about a child waiting for adoption. While that is occurring families have the ability to ask questions about the featured children to better identify if they might be a good fit for that child. [Learn more here](#)

2. Online Family Matching Events

A Family Matching Event features families that are homestudy approved and looking to add to their family. Families present to an audience of Social Workers through an online webinar. Social Workers can then ask as many questions as they want to best identify if any children on their caseload would be a good match with one of the featured families.

3. Matching Assistance Program

This free membership program helps support qualified, current approved home studied families looking for available waiting foster children. It works with families and their adoption workers to help them be placed with a waiting foster child. We understand that adoption workers have high caseloads, and sometimes are unable to recruit for families day in and day out, so we provide a way



for families to submit their home study for over 3,000 active children on our site, and also for children they may find on other state photo listing sites. [Sign up for MAP here](#)



Princess for a Day 2015 - It's Almost Here!

The Princess for a Day event on Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 is an opportunity for Oregon girls 2-18 to be treated like a princess for a day. It is designed to be a gift for foster children in the community, as well as to raise awareness of local foster children. The day of princess pampering includes:

- Hair and Makeup
- Glamor Photo Shoot
- Princess outfit to keep
- Tea Party Lunch



This is a great community event that everyone can take part in by either attending the event with their princess, donating needed princess items, or sponsoring the event. Click the links below for more information:

[**Register Here!**](#)

[General Information](#)

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

[Click Here for Sponsorship](#)

[Click Here for the Donor Form](#)

[It Takes a Village and We Need You!](#)

We want and need your help to spread the word! Let everyone know about A Family For Every Child and our mission. You can tell families you know that want to adopt, friends you know who want to help great kids by becoming a mentor, or even students that you know who want to volunteer some time to a great cause. Everyone can help in one way or another!

Here are some other ways that you can help:

- **Become a volunteer** - we have lots of different areas that you can showcase your skills and abilities -contact: info@afamilyforeverychild.org
- **Become a Mentor** - there are wonderful kids here in our community who are waiting for you contact: mavis.sanchez@afamilyforeverychild.org
- **Host a Heart Gallery** - all you need is some space to showcase wonderful foster children who are waiting to find their Forever Family - contact: recruitment@afamilyforeverychild.org
- **Email us** - supports, training's, activities, events, or anything else you think might help - contact: adoption@afamilyforeverychild.org

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