

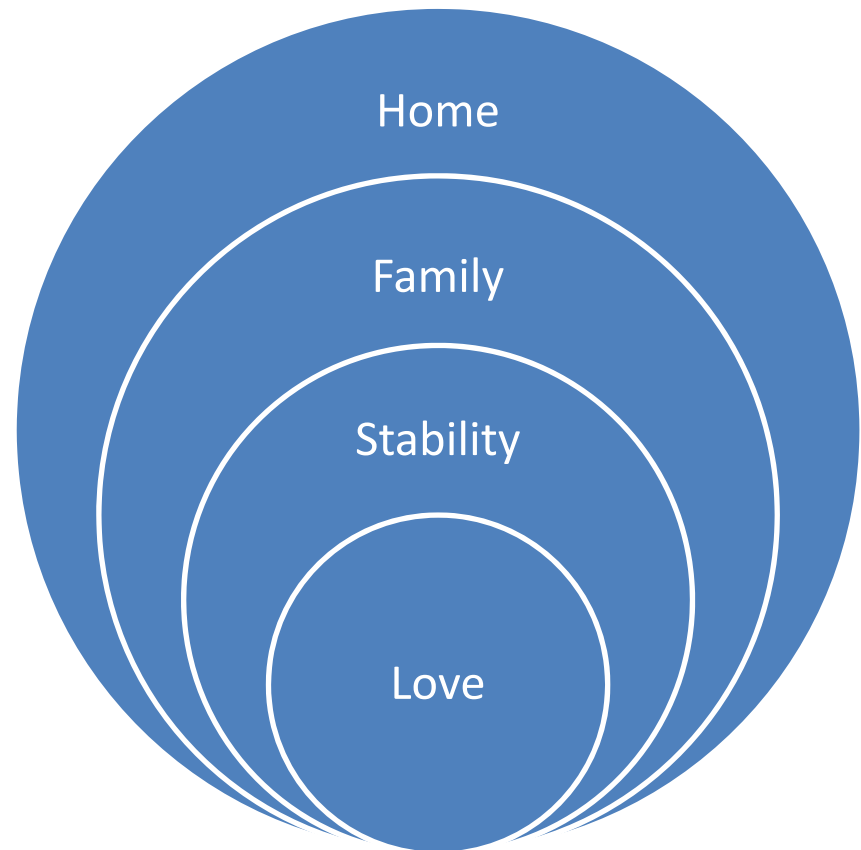
Presented by Lisa M. Kennedy

PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES!

- Provide real life lessons as a guide to improving adoption experience
- Offer pieces of unique information that are **RARELY** gained in advance
- Helpful facts about Adoption –**MY Experience!**
- Discuss successes with adoption, while revealing some truths
- Answer questions about the “how to’s” of adoption
- Share some stats about adoption
- Useful strategies to avoid hiccups

Adoption

- Private Adoption
- International Adoption
- Kinship Care
- Foster Care
- Respite Care



Things to Think About

- What do you need to know?
- Private vs Kinship vs Foster Care
- Considered Respite
- Cost involved, if any
- Post Adoptive Services
- Obtaining Continuing Care
- Insurance

More Info.....

- Each County in the state is different:
 - Expectations
 - Requirements
 - Stipends
 - Clearances
- Must be passionate about Adopting
- Know that you have choices
- Most CHALLENGING and REWARDING decision you'll ever make

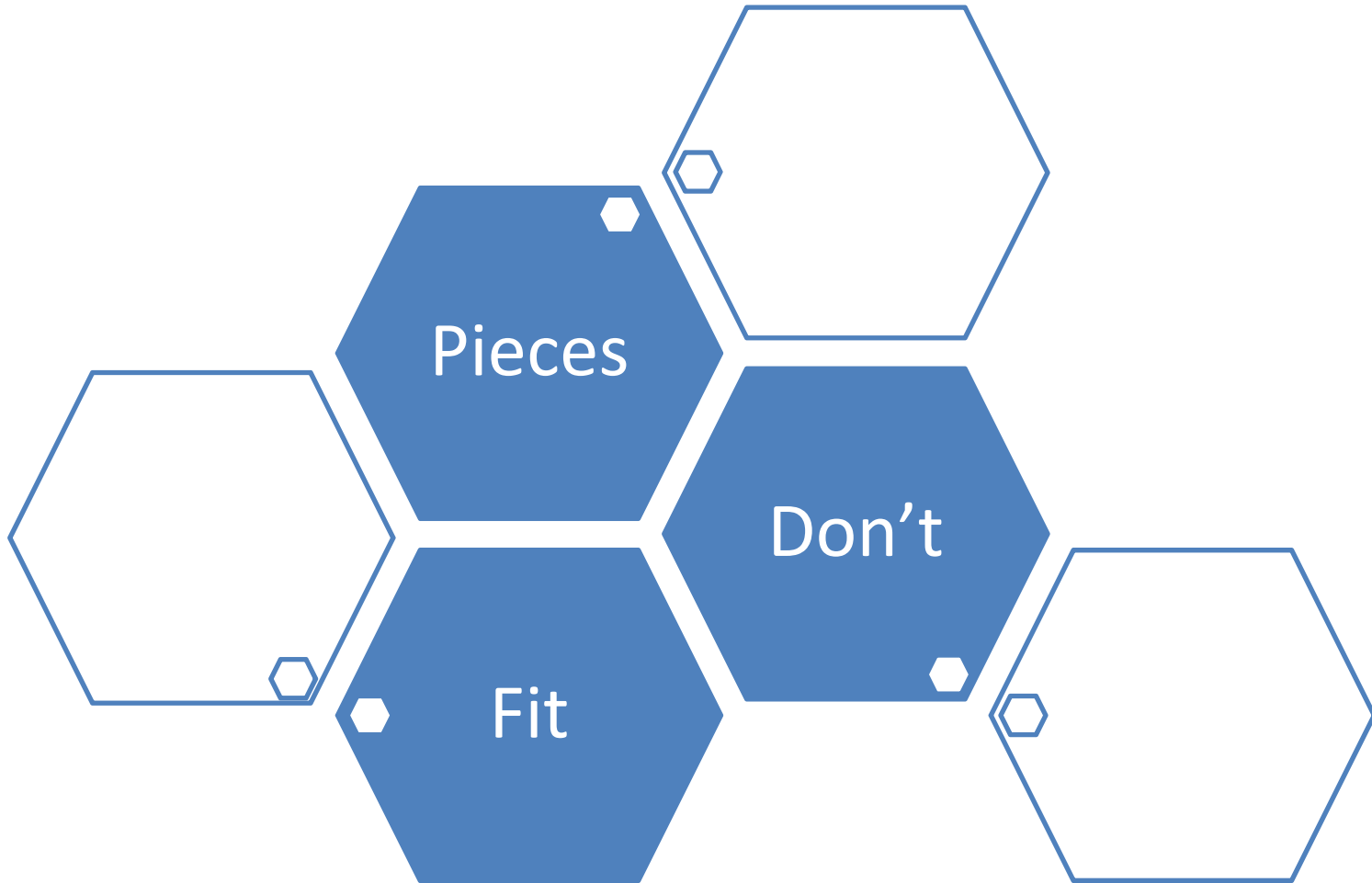
Helpful Strategies

- Decide which process (Pvt, Foster or Kinship)
- Recognize and “Accept” the “Perfect” child doesn’t exist
- Get as much info as you can about the child
- Use the “history” given to project the future needs
- What are you willing to endure? Consider such things such as:
 - Your age
 - Other Children
 - Access/Availability of your time
 - Age of children seeking

Strategies continued

- Know that you can make requests re (adopt and stipend or other special needs) before finalization of adoption
- What changes after finalization of adoption such as:
 - Resources(agencies)
 - Access to services
 - Insurances
 - Stipend
 - Family Access(if necessary)

Strategies continued



Lisa's Truth

Single Parent

Full time
business(work)

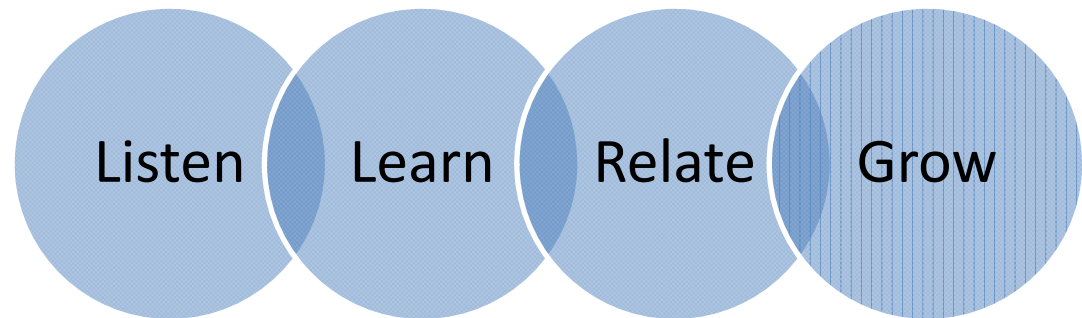
Had to move

Lost relationship

Change careers

Isolation

New Journey



Lisa's Truths by way of Experience

- Advanced Preparation is required
- Adoption will be/is most rewarding experience of your life
- Know your community and what's available to support your child(ren)
- Do not be afraid to ask questions
- There are known and unknown challenges to adoption

Truths' continued

- Personal growth and emotional growth are required to be accessible with adoption
- You will not be able to LOVE your children well
- Do not move forward until you find inner peace
- SHHH! Have no fear! You are CRAZY!!!!!!

Children Entering Foster Care

| STATE | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| CA | 32171 | 31999 | 33751 | 33696 |
| FL | 15846 | 15674 | 14310 | 15804 |
| NY | 11122 | 10594 | 9345 | 9691 |
| PA | 10687 | 10276 | 9770 | 10948 |
| OH | 9934 | 9551 | 9875 | 9924 |
| AZ | 8488 | 10663 | 10790 | 12209 |
| IN | 7522 | 7663 | 7893 | 9107 |
| MI | 7392 | 7145 | 7716 | 7581 |
| GA | 6419 | 6243 | 6005 | 7519 |

| STATE | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|
| MN | 5911 | 5948 | 6059 | 6212 |

Children Exiting Foster Care

| STATE | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| CA | 31810 | 30267 | 30872 | 30317 |
| FL | 14253 | 15332 | 15250 | 13533 |
| NY | 12382 | 10617 | 10551 | 9854 |
| PA | 10836 | 9008 | 8686 | 9455 |
| OH | 9471 | 9356 | 9212 | 9340 |
| IN | 8600 | 7102 | 6459 | 6813 |
| MI | 8502 | 7869 | 7646 | 7489 |
| AZ | 7259 | 7806 | 9455 | 10007 |
| WA | 5522 | 5079 | 5014 | 5524 |

| STATE | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|
| TN | 5363 | 5982 | 6211 | 5689 |

Children in Foster Care

| STATE | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | STATE | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|
| CA | 54754 | 54553 | 55383 | 56771 | MO | 9220 | 9985 | 10624 | 11834 |
| NY | 24962 | 23924 | 22975 | 22422 | | | | | |
| FL | 19760 | 19536 | 18040 | 19712 | | | | | |
| IL | 17641 | 16637 | 16706 | 17140 | | | | | |
| AZ | 10883 | 13461 | 14399 | 16246 | | | | | |
| PA | 14315 | 14502 | 14252 | 14840 | | | | | |
| IN | 10779 | 11190 | 12382 | 14452 | | | | | |
| MI | 15091 | 14522 | 14615 | 13452 | | | | | |
| OH | 12069 | 11877 | 12223 | 12519 | | | | | |

Children Waiting for Adoption

| State | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| CL | 14630 | 13136 | 15667 | 14098 |
| NY | 6417 | 6061 | 5843 | 5463 |
| FL | 4994 | 5129 | 3465 | 5558 |
| MI | 4237 | 3586 | 3337 | 3584 |
| OK | 2956 | 2803 | 3241 | 3975 |
| IL | 3272 | 2936 | 3103 | 2854 |
| OH | 2789 | 2655 | 2976 | 2942 |
| IN | 2886 | 2451 | 2437 | 2731 |
| NC | 2234 | 2071 | 2172 | 2416 |

| State | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|
| PA | 2066 | 2071 | 2172 | 2416 |

Family Structure

| STATE | Married Couple | Unmarried Couple | Single Female | Single Male | Number of Children |
|-------|----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| CA | 62.3% | 4.8% | 28.3% | 4.6% | 5287 |
| FL | 59.8% | 4.0% | 31.7% | 4.5% | 3218 |
| NY | 48.9% | 3.3% | 45.3% | 2.4% | 1903 |
| OH | 74.3% | 4.8% | 19.5% | 1.4% | 1400 |
| PA | 66.3% | 4.6% | 27.4% | 1.7% | 1849 |

Children Identified as Special Needs

| STATE | YES | NO | Number of Children |
|----------------------|--------|-------|--------------------|
| CA | 99.8% | 0.2% | 5471 |
| FL | 77.8% | 22.2% | 3267 |
| NY | 1.5% | 98.5% | 1997 |
| OH | 98.2% | 1.8% | 1406 |
| IN | 92.0% | 8.0% | 1655 |
| OK | 92.3% | 7.7% | 1382 |
| District of Columbia | 100.0% | 0.0% | 107 |
| PA | 88.5% | 11.5% | 1849 |

Adoption by Race/Ethnicity

| State | Native Indian Alaska Native | Asian | Black | Pacific Islander/Hawaiian | Hispanic (of any race) | White | Unknown | Bi-racial | Number of Children |
|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------|---------|-----------|--------------------|
| CA | 0.6% | 1.5% | 11.9% | 0.3% | 51.9% | 26.9% | 0.1% | 6.8% | 5471 |
| FL | 0.2% | 0.0% | 25.0% | 0.2% | 12.6% | 55.5% | 0.3% | 6.2% | 3265 |
| NY | 0.3% | 0.1% | 36.9% | 0.0% | 16.2% | 28.8% | 14.7% | 3.0% | 1997 |
| OH | 0.1% | 0.0% | 22.0% | 0.0% | 7.1% | 60.3% | 0.3% | 10.3% | 1404 |
| PA | 0.0% | 0.1% | 27.7% | 0.0% | 13.9% | 48.1% | 0.9% | 9.2% | 1849 |

Group Activity

- 30 minutes spent in group activity
- 10 minutes of reflection(jot down 3 things you would do to parent/advocate for your child)
- What did learn?
- What did you need to know in advance to help your child appropriately?

Final Thoughts!

- Lisa's Internal Conversation
- Keep a sense of humor
- Take a step back when overwhelmed
- Don't isolate. Lean on others
- Do you have ALL you need to be successful with your child
- Get excited about your next steps towards adoption

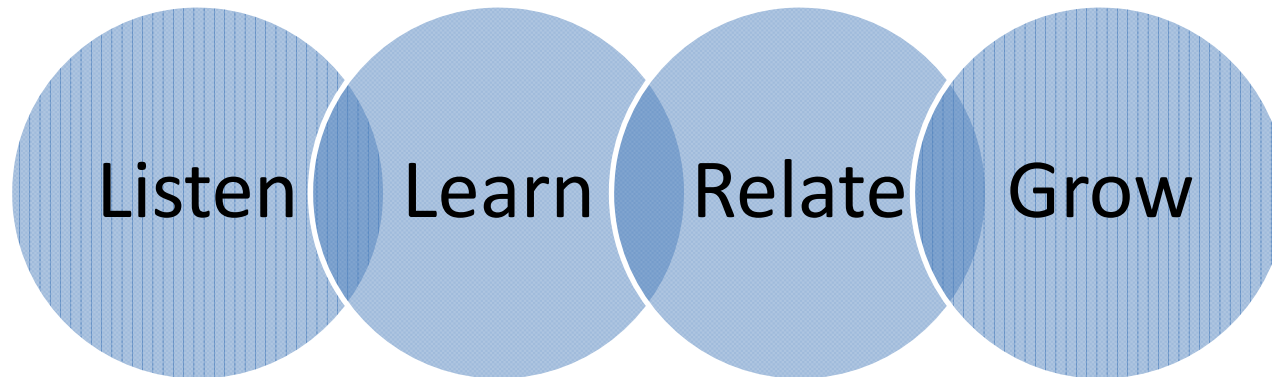
.....more thoughts

- Ask questions!
- Remember to laugh often
- Remember your reasons for wanting to adopt



Q & A Time

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References for Stats

- US Dept of Health and Human Services
- Administration for Children and Families
- Administration of Children, Youth and Families
- Children's Bureau
- All data current through July 2015(Data collected by September 30th of the previous year)