

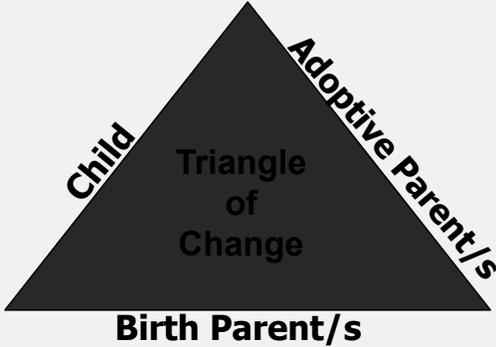
Triangle of Change Workshop

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sponsored by the
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
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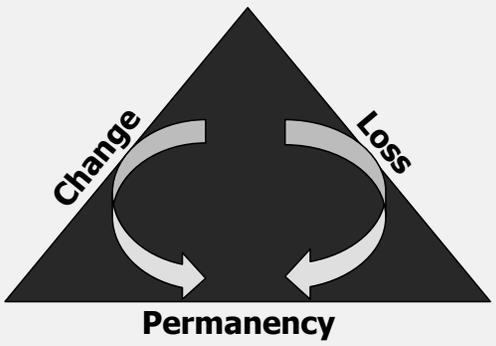
through a training and administrative services agreement with the
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Center for Development of Human Services (CDHS)





Child
Adoptive Parent/s
Triangle of Change
Birth Parent/s





Change
Loss
Permanency



What is Permanency?



Permanency for Youth

“They are always talking about this permanency stuff. You know social workers... lawyers...always using these big social work terms to talk about simple things. One day one of them actually described what they meant by permanency. After I listened to her description, which was the first time anyone ever told me what the term meant, I said, “Oh, that’s what you mean? Yeah, I want permanency in my life. I don’t think I ever had that! When can I get it?”



Permanency means...

- having your side of the church full when you get married.
- having the key to the house.
- having your picture on the wall of someone else’s home.
- having a forever place in someone’s heart.
- It is a chance for someone to choose you; and you to choose them.



How do you think a younger child might describe permanency?



Change



Talking With Children About the Changes

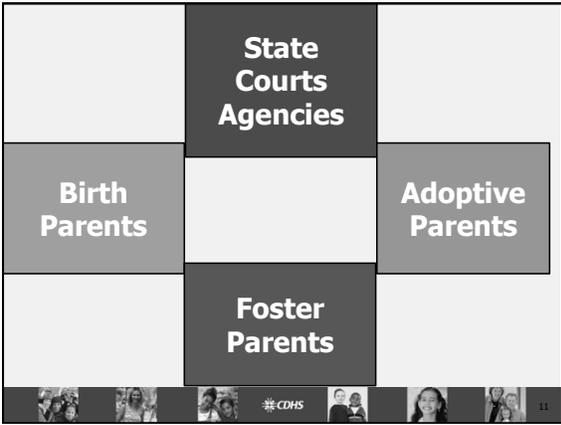
- Acknowledge that adoption is important
- Encourage open discussions
- Create regular activities
- Plan regular events
- Develop relationships



The Difference Between Foster Care & Adoption

- Help the child talk about the perceived difference between foster care and adoption.
- Help the child draw analogies to something in his/her life.
- Help the child understand legal differences between foster care and adoption





•Where is your child on the permanency continuum?



Helping Children Cope With Trauma and Losses



Five Steps to Help Your Child in the Integration Process

- Create an accurate reconstruction of the child's placement history;
- Identify the important attachment figures in the child's life;
- Gain the cooperation of the most significant attachment figures available;
- Clarify "the permission message";
- Communicate that permission to the child.



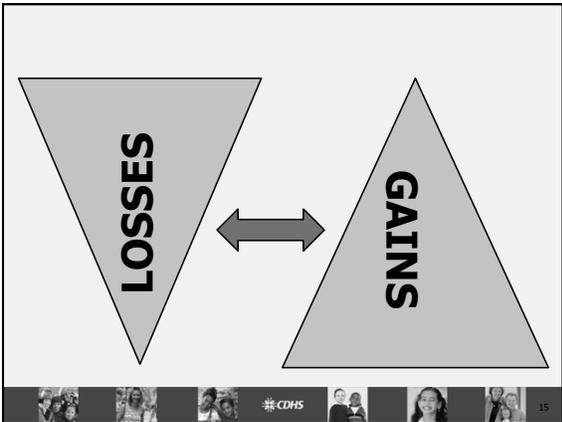


TABLE EXERCISE

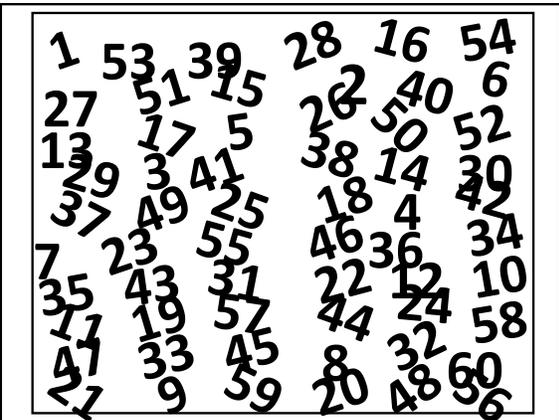
- Develop a list of potential losses that might be experienced by your assigned adoption triad member in order for child permanency to be achieved .
- Develop a list of potential gains that might be experienced by your assigned adoption triad member once child permanency is achieved.



Managing Separation and Loss

- ❖ Ascribing meaning to the loss
- ❖ Overcoming the fear or threat of the unknown
- ❖ Overcoming the fear of developing new relationships





Adoption Disruption

- **What is disruption?**
- The term *disruption* is used to describe an adoption process that ends after the child is placed in an adoptive home and **before** the adoption is legally finalized, resulting in the child's return to (or entry into) foster care or placement with new adoptive parents.



Adoption Dissolution

- **What is dissolution?**
- The term *dissolution* is generally used to describe an adoption in which the legal relationship between the adoptive parents and adoptive child is severed, either voluntarily or involuntarily, **after** the adoption is legally finalized. This results in the child's return to (or entry into) foster care or placement with new adoptive parents.



Summary

- Achieving Permanency for youth in non-secured placement is very challenging work that cannot be successfully done in a vacuum.
- The youth needs to be actively engaged in the collaboration, joint planning and decision-making.
- Permanency intersects with loss, trauma, and the youth's culture and identity.