

Adoption Preparation Group (APG) for Kids

Every child entering an adoptive family needs to have an understanding of their past and present in order to look positively toward the future.

An Adoption Preparation Group:

- Is composed of 2-4 children ages 6-13
- Uses the workbook Looking Forward, Looking Back
- Has a 45-minute class format that includes activities
 - 3 classes for children being adopted by foster parents or relatives
 - 5 classes for children being adopted by a family previously unknown to them

Preparing a child for adoption involves *Looking Back*- making sure the child understands clearly at his or her developmental level what has happened and why- and making some peace with that past in order to be free to start *Looking Forward*. The write-in workbook provides opportunities for the children to explore their thoughts and feelings about their personal situations, while also receiving solid information about:

- The reasons parental rights are terminated or relinquished
- Managing loyalty issues with birth relatives
- The ways children are matched with adoptive families
- Preparing to meet the new family for the first time
- How the move from foster home to adoptive home takes place
- Building trust and attachment with the new family
- Finalizing the adoption

Adoption Preparation Group empowers children who are waiting to be adopted through imparting knowledge and understanding, encouraging questions and exploring difficult truths in a compassionate way. Children find solace in knowing that they are not alone- that others face similar life challenges. In these groups, the presence of conflicting feelings, ambiguity and divided loyalties is normalized.

Facilitator Jean Vanlue, M.A., LPC, LMFT, completed her graduate studies in Marriage & Family Therapy and holds a post-graduate Certificate in Therapy with Adoptive Families. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist. She has been part of the adoption community since 1982, in the roles of adoption caseworker, therapist and adoptive mother.

Fees: Abbreviated class cost is \$135.00 per child including workbook
Full-length class cost is \$215.00 per child including workbook