



Pre/Post Adoption Consulting and Training

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## **Dos and Don'ts in working with adoptive families**

### **DO:**

- Listen non-judgmentally to parents by birth and by adoption (or foster, kin, guardian, step or alternative reproductive technologies)
- Honor the child's past
- Involve the parents in every phase of treatment
- Focus on family strengths
- Work to strengthen attachments
- Maintain a family-focused approach to treatment
- Work to strengthen community networks
- Encourage helpful dialogue about adoption among family members
- Seek good supervision and support for yourself

### **DON'T:**

- Assume adoption is the cause of the family problems
- Assume adoption has nothing to do with the family problems
- Assume adoptive families are just like biologically-created families
- Try to "rescue" the child