

Navigating Adoption

Podcast Discussion Guide

June 2024



Adopt US Kids

Together we hold their future

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What is a podcast discussion guide?

Think book club, but for a podcast! A group of participants listens to the same podcast episode(s) and then discusses the content online or in person.

This discussion guide is designed to facilitate conversations with prospective families—those just beginning their adoption or foster care journey as well as approved resource parents—about the podcast *Navigating Adoption* by AdoptUSKids. The podcast is hosted by April Dinwoodie, author, podcaster, and transracial adoptee. It addresses the topic of adoption from foster care and covers the importance of family, especially for teens; of support networks; of birth family and kinship connections; and the effects of trauma.

Each of the six *Navigating Adoption* podcast episodes are approximately 30 minutes each, an easy length for people to consume and discuss. Access the podcast from either the AdoptUSKids blog (<https://blog.adoptuskids.org>) or your preferred audio-streaming service.

Two ways to use this guide

Listen to individual episodes and discuss each one separately, or have a broader discussion about the entire series. The guide provides a web address and transcript for each episode, as well as conversation starters, questions, and facilitator notes. Toward the end of the guide, there's a “general discussion” section that covers the whole series and additional resources organized by topic. The resources can help you prepare for discussions and may also be appropriate to share with prospective parents.

The guide was designed to facilitate discussions with prospective parents; however, it may be adapted for use with existing foster, adoptive, and kinship parents—for example, as resource parent training or continuing education—and with child welfare professionals. Consider the podcast series and discussion guide resources for any person or group who would benefit from hearing the lived experience of families and youth.

Facilitators, please create a safe and judgement-free space, as adoption and trauma can be sensitive topics. And remember that each participant will bring their own opinions and experiences to the discussion.



“Where to Begin”

Transcript: <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/podcast/where-to-begin/>

This episode highlights the story of an adoptive mother and daughter duo, Liz and Ashley. It introduces the issue of adoption from foster care and the concepts of separation and loss. Host April Dinwoodie sets the stage for future podcast episodes in the series. Child welfare experts are Kamilah Bunn, CEO of the National

Adoption Association; Bob Herne, former national project director at AdoptUSKids; and Debbie Riley, CEO and co-founder of the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E).

Discussion questions

1. What are your reactions after listening to Episode 1? What surprised you the most, and what inspired you about the conversation?
2. What key themes did you take away from the family’s story and the experts?

Facilitator’s note:

Discuss the process of building a relationship between adoptee and adoptive parent, as well as the importance of birth family and kinship connections.

3. Imagine yourself as Ashley meeting a prospective adoptive mother for the first time. What thoughts and emotions might you have? Now think of yourself meeting a youth for the first time. What are your emotions, thoughts, and fears? How might they be the same as or different from the child’s?
4. Liz and Ashley compare their experience of getting to know each other to “dating.” What preconceived expectations do you have about the “getting to know you” process?
5. The episode speaks about how challenges can become opportunities for success, gaining empathy, and better understanding the child in their life. What challenges have you faced that might help you feel empathy toward children and teens?
6. Discuss how you think the trip to Puerto Rico impacted Liz and Ashley.

Facilitator’s note:

Discuss the challenges Liz and Ashley may have experienced while connecting with Ashley’s birth family and kinship connections.

7. What did you learn about children and youth waiting to be adopted?

Facilitator's note:

- *Be prepared to refer to the national AFCARS stats: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/afcars>.*
- *Reference your state's stats. Be knowledgeable about your state, local, or agency needs. Who needs resource families in your community, and who is waiting the longest? This is also a good opportunity to talk about your agency's expectations regarding resource families, especially regarding families that are primarily interested in adoption only.*

8. Before listening, had you thought about adopting or fostering a teen?

Prompts:

- *How do you feel about adopting or fostering teens after listening to the first episode?*
- *What questions or concerns do you have about adopting or fostering older youth?*

9. What myths about adoption were busted in this episode?

Facilitator's note:

- *Myth: Youth are dropped off at a doorstep with a trash bag.*
- *Myth: You must be married to adopt.*
- *Myth: Connections to birth and kin family are disruptive and challenging.*



“Expectations”

Transcript: <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/podcast/expectations/>

This episode features the story of Samantha and Christian, adoptive mother and son. Each discusses what they expected from adoption, as well as the unexpected joys along the way. Child welfare experts Ruth McRoy, PhD, a research professor at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, and Denise Goodman, a child welfare consultant, provide an overview of the children and youth waiting to be adopted, describe youth representation in the foster care system, and explain how the recruitment process works. The episode is hosted by April Dinwoodie.

Discussion questions

1. What are your reactions after listening to Episode 2? What surprised or inspired you?
2. What key themes did you take away from the family’s story and the experts?

Facilitator’s note:

- *Parents should be aware of their values, beliefs, and traditions and how those may differ from their children’s.*
- *Discuss the importance of relationship building, having a support network, and creating family traditions together.*

3. How were Samantha and Christian’s values, beliefs, and traditions similar or different?

Facilitator’s note:

- *Christian’s fear of losing the consistency and stability of his former group home placement.*
- *Samantha’s prioritizing Christian’s education and putting all her focus and energy initially toward that goal.*
- *They both had to work together to help meet each other’s needs and realize the importance of being flexible with their own expectations.*
- *Samantha, as the parent, needed to tell Christian, “You’re staying; we’re not giving up on you.”*

4. What expectations do you have as you begin this journey?

Facilitator's note:

Discuss the importance of talking with the families about managing their assumptions before, during, and after the process.

Prompts:

- *Think about the hope you have and expectations from your extended family.*
- *How do you imagine life with your new family? (i.e., traditions, activities, relationships)*
- *Have your thoughts changed since listening to the podcast?*

5. This episode touches on how holidays, family, and cultural traditions can be challenging for youth adopted from foster care. How so?

Facilitator's note:

- *Children often do not feel part of the adoptive family's traditions. The child/youth may be missing the experience of traditions with their family of origin. They are not sure of the expectations surrounding the tradition.*
- *Emphasize the importance of being open to creating new family traditions or asking the child or youth what traditions are important to them.*
- *See the resources at the end of this guide that address race, ethnicity, and culture.*

6. The podcast talks about the importance of investing in your personal development. What does that mean to you?

Prompts:

- *It is essential to understand the past struggles, experiences, and potential traumas you bring to the relationship. What can you do now while you are waiting?*
- *Why is it essential to work on this?*

7. This episode emphasizes the importance of relationship building; in what ways did Samantha and Christian build their relationship?

Facilitator's note:

Discuss the importance of knowing that relationship building may be a lifelong process and does not stop after the initial phase of getting to know each other; it is an ongoing process of growing and learning together.

8. What does the need for family at any age mean to you?

Prompts:

- *When you think of your relationship with your parents, siblings, and family as an adult, what does that look like? Ask for examples.*
- *How is your family involved in your life? How are you providing support to each other as adults? Ask for examples.*

9. The podcast focuses on teens and the older youth in foster care. Why teens?

Prompts:

- *What are your concerns about adopting a teenager, and what excites you about adopting a teenager?*
- *What would hold you back from adopting a teenager?*

10. What myths were busted in this episode?

Facilitator's note:

- *Myth: Youth do not want families, or they want to age out of foster care.*
- *Myth: You do not need a family after the age of eighteen.*
- *Myth: There are no benefits to adopting teens.*



“You Are Not Alone”

Transcript: <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/podcast/you-are-not-alone/>

Adoptive parents Jeremey and Joslyn describe multiple adoption experiences. Child welfare experts Mary Boo, former executive director at the North American Council on Adoptable Children (now Families Rising), and Melinda Lis, vice president at Spaulding for Children, discuss the importance of support networks and maintaining family connections for youth adopted from foster care and their adoptive families.

Discussion questions

1. What are your reactions after listening to Episode 3? What surprised you, and what left you inspired?
2. What key themes did you take away from the family’s story and the experts?

Facilitator’s note:

- *Accept youth where they are, and love and support them.*
- *Importance of support pre- and post-finalization.*
- *Support is not just for youth, but for parents and family holistically.*
- *Importance of a willingness to look at your parenting style and adjust as necessary.*

3. Why is it important to be an advocate for your child or teen?

Prompts:

- *What might you need to be prepared to advocate for: special needs, education, mental health, physical health, developmental services, community resources, financial assistance?*
- *Support groups provide you with peers. Begin exploring support in your community now, perhaps by looking for parent support groups.*
- *Making connections early makes it easier to reach out for support when you are in need.*

4. How important is it to have a team to support you throughout your adoption journey? Who is part of your support team now and who might you need to add?

Prompts:

- *How easy or challenging is it for you to ask for help?*

- *Suggested activity: Think about your support system. Draw a circle with your name in the middle. Draw a line from your name to the circle and place names on the lines that represent a person of support, how are they supportive to you? Are they dependable, accepting, trustworthy? Look at the circle; where are there gaps?*
 - *Be open to services, supports, and parent support groups. Realize and accept the need for services and supports, now and into the future.*
5. The episode focuses on pre- and post-adoption services. What are they? How open are you to assistance, not just for your child, but for the family as a whole?

Facilitator's note:

Be prepared to share post-adoption and pre-adoption services in your community.

Prompts:

- *Do you know what your state or community offers? What services do you currently use? What would you like to learn more about in your community?*
 - *Understand the continuum of services and the need for services changes over time, and the needs of families and youth change over time.*
6. Jeremy and Joslyn talk about the need to look at their parenting style and be open to change. How would you describe your parenting style? What do you think about adapting it based on the child's needs?

Facilitator's note:

- *Ask for examples.*
- *Suggest that participants be open to expanding their parenting paradigm. What does this look like? Why is it important? Think about how you can parent differently to meet your child's needs, and realize that you need to change as much as you are asking your child or youth to change.*

7. What firsts and milestones might you experience with teens?

Facilitator's note:

- *Ask for examples of milestones, such as prom, graduation, and driving, as well as other potential firsts such as going to the beach, riding a horse, playing a new sport, or being in a performance.*
- *There are more firsts than walking and talking: there are a lifetime of new firsts (new jobs, new homes, marriages, grandchildren, etc.)*
- *Discuss creating new family traditions together.*

8. How do you feel about maintaining birth family and kinship connections?

Prompts:

- *Discuss the importance of connection in everyone's life. Be prepared to discuss what connections may provide to the child or youth.*
- *Discuss the conflicts that may occur when maintaining those relationships.*
- *Discuss the benefits of maintaining relationships or connections.*
- *Discuss the importance of maintaining cultural, racial, religious, and relational connections.*

9. What myths were busted in this episode?

Facilitator's note:

- *Myth: After the adoption finalization you do not need any additional support or services.*
- *Myth: You do not need support before, during, or after the adoption process.*



“How to Give Grace”

Transcript: <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/podcast/how-to-give-grace/>

In this episode, adoptive mother and daughter Amber and Kimberly share their powerful adoption story. Child welfare expert Debbie Riley, CEO and co-founder of the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E), discusses the topic of trauma and how families can acknowledge loss, address trauma, and grow together with grace. April Dinwoodie hosts.

Discussion questions

1. What are your reactions after listening to Episode 4?
2. What surprised you the most?
3. What inspired you about Amber and Kimberly’s conversation?
4. What key themes did you take away from the family’s story and the experts?

Facilitator’s note:

- *Trauma and its impact.*
- *Grief and loss.*

5. Was it new to hear that adoptees and foster youth experience grief and loss? What did you learn that you did not know about grief and loss in adoption from foster care?

Facilitator’s note:

- *Children and youth grieve the loss of their birth family and kinship connections, community, and friends.*
- *The grieving process helps a child or youth heal.*

6. Have you experienced any losses? How has it changed you?

Prompts:

- *Think about sharing your personal losses and how that has impacted you as you prepare for this journey.*

- *How have you coped with these losses? How has it changed you?*
 - *What about other losses? Examples could include the loss of pets, high school classmates, community groups, or colleagues.*
7. How might your own experience of loss affect your ability to parent a child who has also experienced grief and loss?

Prompts:

- *How does it help you relate and connect to youth?*
 - *Could the grief of your own loss be triggered and impacted by the youth's loss?*
 - *How can the coping skills you gained through your experience be useful when relating to your child or youth?*
8. What are examples of losses an adoptee or youth in foster care may have experienced?

Prompts:

- *Talk about the concept of loss for youth adopted from foster care. Are there concepts of loss highlighted for youth that you have not thought about before?*
 - *Some of these losses may not be well defined, as the people, places, and things can still exist.*
 - *Awareness of the pain that comes from losing birth family or kinship connections.*
 - *Relationships such as birth family or kinship connections, teachers, friends, other caregivers, or pets.*
 - *Objects such as toys, clothing, or photos.*
 - *Familiar environments—restaurants, parks, schools—and the feelings or scents they evoke.*
 - *Identity, racial, or cultural connections.*
 - *Traditions, holiday celebrations, or other aspects of culture.*
 - *Community, including neighborhood, clubs, or sports teams.*
 - *Control of their life.*
9. What are signs your child might be experiencing grief and loss?

Facilitator's note:

Discuss how one can detect the signs of grief and loss and explain what those signs are including:

- *Anger outbursts, difficulty concentrating in school, crying, or depression.*
- *Anger and mistrust toward adults.*
- *Withdrawal.*
- *Over-functioning or perfectionism.*
- *Grief is presented through emotions, health, and behaviors.*

10. What can parents do to help with their child’s grief and loss?

Facilitator’s note:

Offer the following ideas:

- *Explore your foster care or adoption story.*
- *Comfort your child or youth, offer support, and listen. Talk about why it is important to comfort, support, and listen instead of offering immediate solutions or actions.*
- *Take care of yourself.*
- *Model grieving.*
- *Find a therapist for your child and family (look for an adoption- or permanency-competent therapist).*
- *Find a support peer group for your child/youth (look for groups with similar lived experiences as your child or youth).*

11. Why is it important to keep birth family and kinship connections according to the experts?
How does it help the adoptee be more successful?

Facilitator’s note:

Discuss how a child’s well-being may increase when birth or kinship connections are maintained. Even if a child or youth has experienced trauma, it is important to allow the child or youth connections while maintaining healthy boundaries.

Prompt:

- *How might a parent address a child’s fear of connection?*

12. What about Amber and Kimberly’s story makes you think about building family connections?

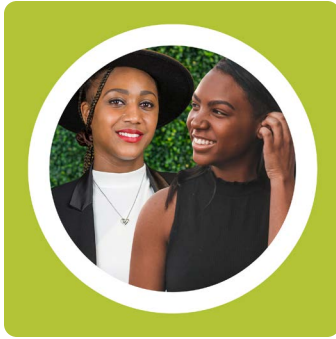
Prompts:

- *Discuss how Kimberly talks about not asking Amber to change; instead they provided her with a place to feel safe and be herself.*

13. What myths were busted in this episode?

Facilitator’s note:

- *Myth: Children and youth in adoptive families do not grieve the loss of their families of origin.*
- *Myth: They do not need family of origin connections because they have a “new” family.*
- *Myth: It is not possible to love and have a connection with both adoptive and families of origin.*



“The Countdown”

Transcript: <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/podcast/the-countdown/>

This episode features La Tika and Catherine, both adopted from foster care, exploring the concept of aging out of the foster care system. Child welfare experts discuss the importance of youth in foster care having their voices heard as they work toward family and permanency. They are Sixto Cancel, CEO of Think of Us, and Sarah

Phillips, LINKS Coordinator and CPS social worker for the Orange County Department of Social Services in North Carolina, with host April Dinwoodie.

Discussion questions

1. What did you learn from Episode 5?
2. What surprised you the most?
3. What inspired you about Catherine and La Tika’s conversation?
4. What key themes did you take away from the youth’s story and the experts?

Facilitator’s note:

Explain that young adults and teens want and need a family in their teens, as well as into adulthood.

5. Explain that young adults and teens want and need a family in their teens, as well as into adulthood.
6. What did you learn or hear from La Tika and Catherine, and what does it make you think about?

Prompts:

- *Adoption can happen at any age; why is this important?*
 - *What does “the importance of having connection” mean to you? Why are connections important?*
7. When Catherine talks about “passing through,” “temporary home,” and “everyone deserves a chance for a family,” what does that make you think about?

Prompts:

- *Explore the ideas of “passing through” and “temporary home.” What do these phrases mean?*
- *Discuss the idea that “everyone deserves a chance for a family.”*

8. What are the risk factors of aging out of foster care?

Facilitator's note:

Discuss the factors that can occur when youth age out without permanency, relational connections, or a support system (homelessness, addiction, incarceration).

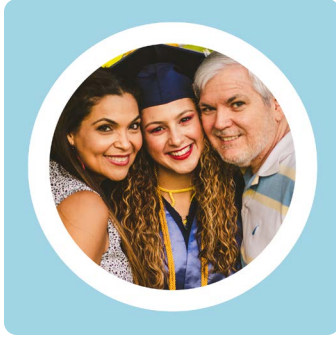
Prompts:

- *How can these factors be prevented by creating permanency and long-lasting connections?*
- *Be prepared to share your local data on the number of youth aging out of your state or jurisdiction.*
- *Consider highlighting the data on the number of youths adopted over the age of thirteen in your state or jurisdiction.*
- *Why do you think adoption is the exception instead of the norm?*

9. What myths were busted in this episode?

Facilitator's note:

- *Myth: Family is not important once you are an adult.*
- *Myth: Adoption as an adult is not possible (after the age of 18 or 21).*



“The Last Firsts”

Transcript: <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/podcast/the-last-firsts/>

Adoptive parents Chris and Gigi and their daughter, Maci, describe becoming a family. Child welfare experts discuss the rewards of adoption for both youth and adopted families, the current world of adoption, and how to learn more. They are Kamilah Bunn, CEO of the National Adoption Association, and Bob Herne, former national project director at AdoptUSKids, with host April Dinwoodie.

Discussion questions

1. After listening to all six episodes, how have your thoughts changed around fostering or adopting older youth or teens?
2. What inspired you about the Keans’ conversation?
3. Has this podcast changed your perception of how to define “family?”
4. What do you think of the concept “adding versus subtracting” when it comes to adoption from foster care?

Facilitator’s note:

Explain the idea that each person entering the relationship, including the adoptee and adoptive parent, brings their family of origin in instead of having to leave them behind. To enter a relationship, one does not have to give something up. Adoption is the addition of family, not subtraction.

5. In each episode, we have heard from professionals and families about the importance of maintaining connections to birth family members and kinship connections. What are your expectations regarding birth family and kinship connections? How have your expectations or assumptions changed since listening to the podcast?
6. What did you learn that you did not know about adopting teens from foster care?
7. What are your reactions after listening to the podcast?

8. What questions do you still have about the process? Do you know what your next steps are?

Facilitator's note:

Encourage the participants to write down any remaining questions. Let them know where they can get their questions answered, and connect them with local experts, such as their caseworker. Most importantly, do not let the participants leave the discussion confused.

General discussion questions

The *Navigating Adoption* podcast brings together adoptive families and adoption experts to highlight the unexpected rewards of adopting a teen from foster care. Listen to the full podcast series (six episodes) and use the questions below to facilitate a single, broad discussion on all the episodes.

Link to episodes and transcripts: <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/podcast/>

Discussion questions

1. What are your reactions after listening to the podcast?
2. What key themes did you take away from the families' stories and the experts?

Facilitator's note:

- *Importance of family at any age.*
- *Need for a support system.*
- *Impact of grief and loss.*
- *Importance of relationship building.*
- *Importance of birth family and kinship connections.*

3. Did you learn anything new about adoption from foster care?
4. What surprised you the most?
5. What inspired you about the families' conversations?
6. What questions did it bring up for you?
7. The podcast talks about the need for family regardless of age. What does this mean to you?

Prompts:

- *When you think of your relationship with your parents, siblings, and family as an adult, what does this look like? Ask for examples.*
- *How is your family involved in your life? How are you providing support to each other as adults? Ask for examples.*

8. What do you think of the concept of “adding versus subtracting” when it comes to adoption from foster care?

Facilitator’s note:

Discuss the concept that each person in the relationship, including the adoptee and adoptive parent(s), brings their birth families and other familial connections to the relationship. Consider adoption as an addition to family, not subtraction.

9. In each episode, we hear from professionals and families about the importance of maintaining connections to birth family members and kin. What are your expectations or experiences regarding birth and kinship family connections?
10. How have your expectations or assumptions changed after listening to the podcast?
11. How important is it to have a team of support throughout your adoption journey?
12. Who is part of your support team now, and who might you need to add?

Suggested activity:

- *Have participants think about their support system. Ask them to draw a circle with their name in the middle.*
- *Next have them draw a line from their name to the circle and place names on the lines that represent a person of support.*
- *Ask participants, how are they supportive of you? Are they dependable, accepting, or trustworthy?*
- *Ask participants, look at the circle, where are there gaps?*

Prompts:

- *How easy or challenging is it for you to ask for help?*
 - *Be open-minded to services, parent support groups, and other supports. Realize and accept the need for services and support, now and in the future.*
13. What does it mean to be open to different characteristics of a child or youth? What worries you about expanding your options?

Facilitator’s note:

Discuss how openness to different child or youth characteristics will allow more options for their family to expand (for example, considering older youth or sibling groups).

Discuss the concerns associated with adopting from foster care and how they can be addressed.

14. What questions do you still have about the adoption process?

Facilitator's note:

Encourage participants to write down any remaining questions. Guide them on how they can get their questions answered and by whom. Can their caseworker or child worker answer the question, are there resources you can link them to, can another podcast or book expand their knowledge base?

Most importantly, do not let the participant leave the discussion feeling confused, overwhelmed, or frustrated.

Resources

The following resources can be found on the AdoptUSKids website, blog, or the site for professionals. They can help you prepare for discussions and may be helpful to share with prospective parents.

Trauma

Understanding trauma. Web page on adoptuskids.org. <https://adoptuskids.org/meet-the-children/children-in-foster-care/about-the-children/understanding-trauma>

Understanding the impact of trauma on children's behavior: a discussion guide. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/understanding-the-impact-of-trauma-on-childrens-behavior-a-discussion-guide/>

Not your style? Think again. Trauma-responsive parenting really works. Blog post. <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/not-your-style-think-again-trauma-responsive-parenting-really-works/>

Moving beyond trauma-informed to trauma-responsive support for families. Article on *AdoptUSKids for Professionals* site. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/moving-beyond-trauma-informed-to-trauma-responsive-support-for-families/>

Understanding confabulation: a discussion guide. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/understanding-confabulation-a-discussion-guide-for-parent-support-group-leaders/>

Moving beyond trauma-informed to trauma-responsive support for families. Webinar. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/moving-beyond-trauma-informed-to-trauma-responsive-support-for-families/>

Birth family and kinship connections

Navigating first family relationships: a discussion guide <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/navigating-first-family-relationships-a-discussion-guide/>

Maintaining contact between birth and adoptive families. Blog post. <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/maintaining-contact-between-birth-and-adoptive-families/>

Resources for parent support

Support for foster parents. Web page on adoptuskids.org. <https://adoptuskids.org/adoption-and-foster-care/parenting-support/for-foster-parents>

State adoption and foster care information. <https://adoptuskids.org/adoption-and-foster-care/how-to-adopt-and-foster/state-information>

Being matched with a child. Web page on adoptuskids.org. <https://adoptuskids.org/adoption-and-foster-care/how-to-adopt-and-foster/being-matched-with-a-child#avoid-bias>

Stabilizing placements through relationships: Supporting resource parents to overcome relationship barriers. Webinar. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/stabilizing-placements-through-relationships-supporting-resource-parents-to-overcome-relationship-barriers/>

Racial, ethnicity, and culture

Decreasing racial disparity in permanency: a conversation with Tatenda Perry. Article on *AdoptUSKids for Professionals* site. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/decreasing-racial-disparity-in-permanency-a-conversation-with-tatenda-perry/>

Supporting a positive racial identity for BIPOC children in transracial placements: a discussion guide. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/supporting-a-positive-racial-identity-for-bipoc-children-in-transracial-placements-a-discussion-guide/>

Discussing racial identity in support groups. Webinar. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/discussing-racial-identity-in-support-groups/>

Racial equity in targeted recruitment and support: Strategies for reaching and engaging families of color. Webinar. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/racial-equity-in-targeted-recruitment-and-support-strategies-for-reaching-and-engaging-families-of-color/>

Recruiting foster and adoptive families of color: Stories and strategies from leaders of color in child welfare. Webinar. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/recruiting-foster-and-adoptive-families-of-color-stories-and-strategies-from-leaders-of-color-in-child-welfare/>

How to support foster, adoptive, and kinship families of color. Webinar. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/how-to-support-foster-adoptive-and-kinship-families-of-color/>

Understanding, engaging, and supporting Native families. Webinar. <https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/understanding-engaging-and-supporting-native-families/>

Importance of teen adoption

The following posts on the AdoptUSKids blog speak to teen adoption:

Finding my voice, changing my story. Interview with former foster youth Tawanna Brown, adopted by her grandmother. <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/finding-my-voice-changing-my-story/>

Helping foster youth discover their dreams. Jamerika Haynes-Lewis writes about being in foster care, competing in pageants, and sharing her message as former USA Ambassador Ms. 2021. <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/helping-foster-youth-discover-their-dreams/>

I want people who are thinking about adopting to look beyond babies and toddlers. Adoptee Kandice Harmon speaks to prospective parents. <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/i-am-one-of-the-lucky-ones/>

I was adopted into the perfect family for me. Victor Sims shares how his adoptive family helped him maintain connections with his birth family. <https://blog.adoptuskids.org/i-was-adopted-into-the-perfect-family-for-me/>



AdoptUSKids is operated by the National Adoption Association and is made possible by grant number 90CO1143 from the Children's Bureau. The contents of this resource are solely the responsibility of the National Adoption Association and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Children's Bureau, ACYF, ACF, or HHS.

