

Child Hosting Programs: Getting Prepared to be a Host Family

Outline

- What is a child hosting program, and what are the goals of hosting today?
- How have hosting programs changed in recent years, especially around ethics and child welfare practices?
- What types of children most commonly participate in hosting programs (ages, sibling groups, common needs, etc.)?
- Are children typically already eligible for adoption before participating?
- What does it look like to be a host family?
- What types of families tend to thrive in hosting programs
- What does it mean to advocate for a child during hosting?
- What signs may suggest a family is not ready?
- What kind of screening, training, and preparation do host families typically complete?
- How much information do families usually receive about a child beforehand?
- How should families prepare the children already living in their home?
- Are there special considerations for families whose children already have trauma histories or who were adopted themselves?
- Why is it so important for host families to understand trauma before hosting?
- How does trauma commonly show up during hosting, especially in a short-term environment?
- What behaviors or emotional responses should families realistically expect?
- What are common mistakes well-intentioned host families make?
- Hosting programs can raise strong criticisms and concerns. What are the most common criticisms or misunderstandings about hosting?
- How do ethical programs work to reduce a child's feelings of being "chosen" or evaluated?
- How are children prepared emotionally before they travel?
- How do programs and host families work to avoid creating false hope for children?
- What does a typical hosting session look like? How long, what to do, etc.
- What activities and support should host families expect during hosting?
- What financial realities should families understand before committing?
- Can families host even if they are unsure about adoption?
- If a family decides they want to pursue adoption, what typically happens next?
 - What does that process and timeline often look like?

- What is emotionally difficult for families after a child returns home while adoption decisions are pending?
- Are the children made aware of a potential adoption plan once hosting is over?
- What does a successful hosting experience look like from the child's perspective?
- What's one thing you hope every prospective host family understands before beginning?