

# Adopting Older Children

## Outline

- What are the age ranges you see being the most difficult to find adoptive homes for?
- The greatest need in both international and foster care adoption is kids 5+
- Why are many prospective parents almost afraid of adopting a tween or teen.
- What are the common challenging behaviors parents may face when adopting an older child?
- What behaviors might parents expect to see in the children already living in the home that are likely impacted by the behaviors of a newly adopted sibling? Or influenced by the new sibling?
- Why do older children behave in some of these challenging ways? What's driving them?
- What are a few specific strategies to build trust and felt-safety for a newly adopted older child?
- What suggestions do you offer families who are adopting tweens and teens – especially when those young people have had very few limits or boundaries around them prior to adoption?
- What are the signs that maybe an older child is not attaching securely or catching on to the idea that they are now part of this family?

### RESOURCES:

- <https://creatingafamily.org/adoption-category/adoption-blog/6-parenting-tips-for-older-child-adoption/>
- <https://creatingafamily.org/adoption-category/adoption-blog/maintaining-a-healthy-perspective-when-parenting-tweens-teens/>
- <https://creatingafamily.org/adoption-category/preparing-to-blend-kids-by-birth-and-adoption-or-foster-kinship-care/>
- <https://creatingafamily.org/welcoming-an-older-child-to-your-family/>
- <https://creatingafamily.org/adoption/resources/adoptee-voices/>