

Loud and Clear

Parents share their thoughts with us about family life at conferences and workshops and in their letters.

“You know you have to nurture and raise them, but you might as well laugh a little.”

“As we transition, we’re always going through tremendous change. We go through the happy times. We go through the tears. Honestly, I think it’s through the tears that we grow the most.”

“As we transition from foster care to adoption, we have to think of the bonds and links we are building and also what we are tearing apart. So many of these children have been torn and going from adoption to foster care is another scary step.”

“We need to provide services for adoptive families to keep them whole, to keep them healthy, to keep them safe. It’s an ongoing process that never ends.”

“Birth mothers and birth fathers have given adoptive parents a tremendous gift. We should not feel threatened by birth parents or the extended family of the children. We’re their parents, they’re going to be our children forever. The biological parents are their past and we don’t need to feel so threatened.”

“We’re very quiet, unassuming people until we see our kids being denied services, then we become warriors.”

“Those of us who have parented by birth and adoption know the love and commitment part, that’s the same. That’s the easy part. But the skills we need to develop and be educated about how to be effective parents for these children are incredibly long.”

“I don’t think anyone knows our children more than we do. We need to advocate for them and not to be afraid to say what we feel they need. Don’t be afraid to advocate in ways that may not be what’s considered standard.”

“No one placing a child in a family—public or private—should be allowed not to provide post-adoption services.”

“There’s many kids in the system that the teachers look at them as foster and adopted kids and they don’t get treated the same.”

“We need to help teachers really focus on the emotional needs of children who have experienced profound losses at very young ages.”

"These are not adoptive issues, they are everyday issues. What makes them adoptive issues is how our children have been shifted and shuffled around by so many people in so many different places."

"Any of the work we do for our children is going to affect, in a positive way, all children."

"Families have trouble accessing respite care, particularly because the ones who need it the most have the most difficult children. If you've got a fairly easy child, your friend next store will take him."

"I think adoptive parents with more 'interesting' children have found, over time, that friends and relatives don't invite you over as much. The people you interact with are other adoptive parents with similar 'interesting' children."

"There are periods in the children's lives when they're stable. Then, maybe they reach another development milestone that brings everything up, so then you need intensive services for a while again."