



HOW TO make the most out of an ADOPTION PARTY

An adoption party is a chance to learn about adoption, expand your network, and participate in the adoption process. We encourage you to relax and have fun! If this event is your first introduction to adoption, please use it as an opportunity to gather information, ask questions, and feel free to approach MARE staff, DCF social workers, or volunteers.

If you are a family in the adoption process, please see our suggestions below.

PLEASE DO:

- Get involved in the activities
- Strive to relax and become more comfortable with meeting new people
- Talk, interact, and have fun with a variety of waiting kids but refrain from physical contact
- Observe what children of different ages and abilities enjoy doing
- Introduce yourself to other pre-adoptive families and social workers
- Discuss your thoughts and interest in specific children with your family worker during or after the party
- Be direct about where you are in the process when discussing specific children with social workers
- Take a few moments to look at the Photolisting boards of waiting children
- Review the party booklet of waiting children
- Meet some of the experienced adoptive families who are available to answer questions
- Distribute your Family Profile *if you are home studied and approved*

PLEASE DO NOT:

- Spend the length of the party with any one child or sibling group
- Take photos with (or of) a child
- Tell a child you are interested in adopting him or her
- Ask a child about his/her birth family, last name, where he/she lives, his/her personal history or if he/she wants to be adopted

A child may be shy at first or not very talkative in your company. Be sure to let the child's comfort level guide your interaction with him/her. No final decisions about matches are made at an adoption party; there is a lot of follow up as social workers decide which family is the best match for a child.

Talking to Waiting Children

Here are some fun and open ended questions to spark conversation with kids. Remember that conversation is a two way-street and sharing your answers first may encourage a child to say more. You may find you have something in common, too!

What do you like to do for fun?

What kind of music do you like?

What's your greatest talent?

What's your favorite movie? Favorite book?

What do you like best about school?

What did you dress as for Halloween?

What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?

What are your favorite foods? Favorite restaurant?

What are your friends like? What do you like to do together?

What's something you want to learn to do?

If you could stay up all night, what would you do?

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

If you could play any instrument, what would it be?

If you could meet any famous person, who would it be?

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?