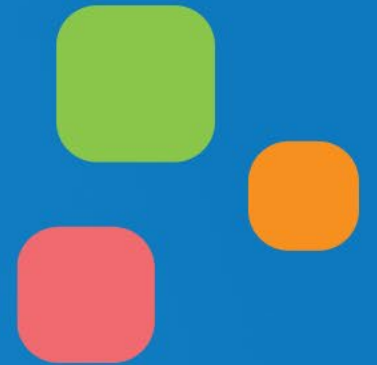




Learning Goals and Objectives

- Separation, Attachment, Grief, and Loss
- The Role of CPS and the child's DFPS CPS Case Worker
- The Role of Arrow and Arrow's Case Manager
- Special Needs Adoption
- Transracial and Cross-Cultural Adoptions
- Disruption/Dissolution and Ways to Prevent it
- Community Resources, Post Adoption Services, and Tax Credit





A bit about Arrow...

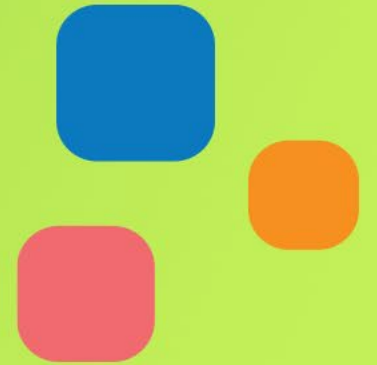
- Each year, Arrow's programs serve over 4,000 children and families!
- #TogetherKidsWin
- Since 1992, Arrow has been fighting the effects of child abuse by helping kids heal from the past, and strengthening families to break the cycle of abuse and neglect





Kinship Foster Care

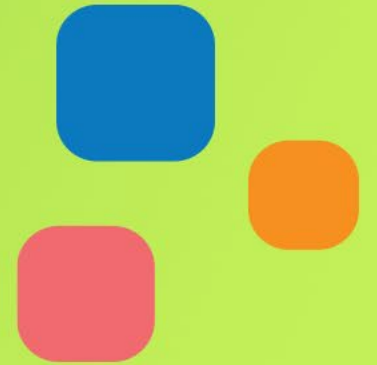
- **What** is Kinship?
- **Why** is Kinship a preferred placement for children in care?





PSALM 127:3-4

“Children are a gift of the Lord...like arrows in the hand of a warrior so are the children of one’s youth.”





Separation, Attachment, Grief, and Loss

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What comes to mind when you hear the words separation, loss, and grief?

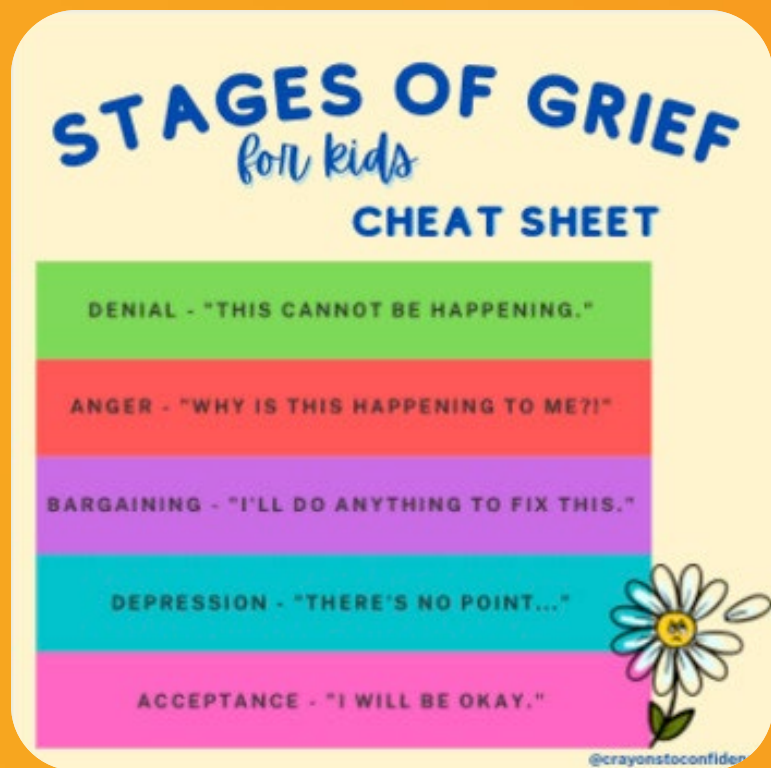




Job's Grief



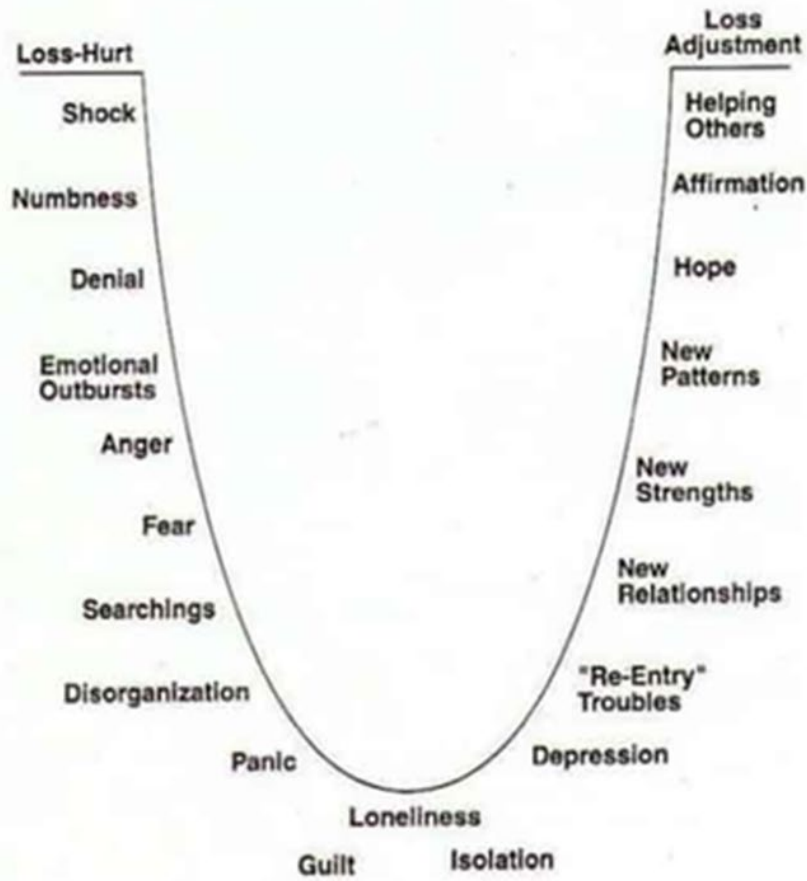
Definitions



- Denial
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Despair
- Acceptance



STAGES OF GRIEF



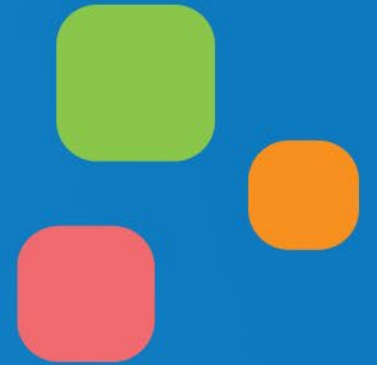
My experience



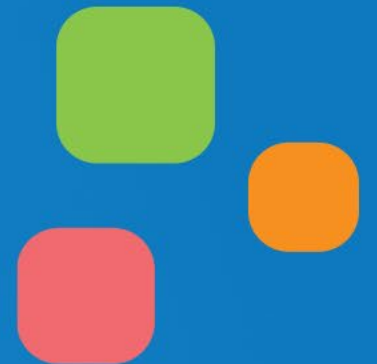


Signs of Grief

- Normal / Common Signs of Grief
- Younger Children / School Age
- Complicated Grief Signs



A Few Grieving Patterns by Age



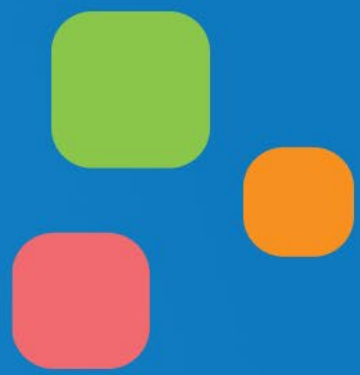
How A Child's Developmental Level will Affect their Response to Grief and Loss





Grief Through Different Cultures

Consider the following questions as you seek support and understanding of a person with a different cultural background:

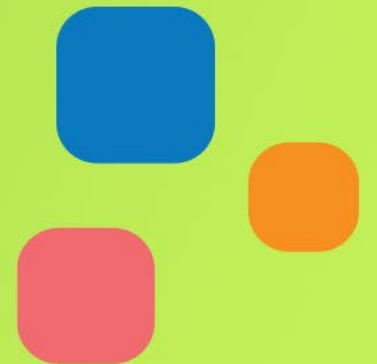
- What emotions and behaviors are normal grief responses within the person's own cultural?
 - What special days or dates will be significant?
 - What types of verbal or written condolences are expressed?
- 



The Role of CPS and the DFPS Case Worker

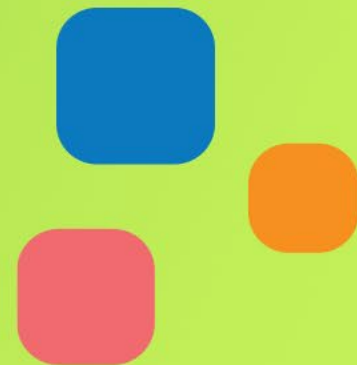
The Role of DFPS

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) works with communities to promote safe and healthy families and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. They do this through investigations, services and referrals, and prevention programs.



General CPS Case Worker Duties

- Over the course of a child's placement with a caregiver, the child's caseworker must:
 - ensure that the caregiver has up-to-date information about the child;
 - ensure that the caregiver has the child's education portfolio;
 - ask the caregiver to help develop and implement the child's service plan;
 - give the caregiver copies of the
 - placement transfer summary;
 - Child's Plan of Service;
 - education portfolio;
 - IMPACT form, Medical and Developmental History and Physical Examination;
 - medical records; and
 - medical log. When the caseworker gives the child's caregiver the medical log from IMPACT, the worker must ask the caregiver to:
 - update the form each time the child receives medical services; and
 - give the worker an updated copy before each service plan review;



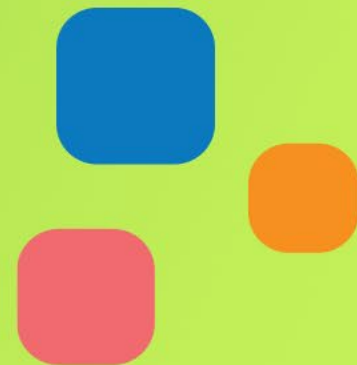
General CPS Case Worker Duties

- identify in the Child's Plan of Service any support services that the caregiver must receive to meet the child's needs, and (within the limits of available resources) ensure that the caregiver receives those services;
- help and encourage the caregiver to participate as a team member in planning for, delivering services to, and evaluating the progress of the child;
- give 10-day written notification of Chapter 263 court review hearings, as required by law, so that the caregiver can plan to attend and present testimony, if desired;
- give appropriate notification of permanency planning meetings so that the caregiver can plan to attend and be heard, if desired;
- give appropriate notification of any other reviews held with respect to the child, so that the caregiver can plan to attend and be heard, if desired;
- make monthly contact with the caregiver, at least by phone;

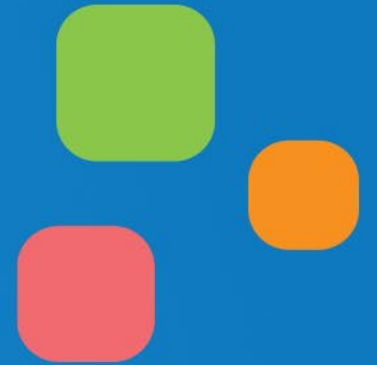


General CPS Case Worker Duties

- visit the child and the caregiver at the caregiver's home or facility in a majority of the monthly visits with the child;
- during monthly contact, discuss the caregiver's specific concerns about the child's care, such as the child's relationship with the caregiver's family, changes in the composition or functioning of the caregiver's family, problems with DFPS policies, and so on. Identify any follow-up support services that may be needed;
- respond to requests for information;
- help the caregiver find ways to manage the child's behavior;
- assess the caregiver's ability to respond to and meet the child's needs;
- assess the caregiver's need for services to support the placement; and
- provide any follow-up support services that are requested or needed.

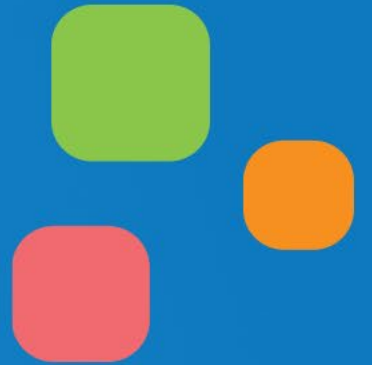


The Role of Arrow and Arrow's Case Manager



The Role of Arrow in the Life of Children and Caregivers

Arrow Child & Family Ministries serves children entering foster care by recruiting, training, licensing and supporting foster families as they provide therapeutic services from a Christian worldview. The goal is to transition these children back into a healthy environment with their biological families. Or, if that is not possible, provide a safe, nurturing home from which they can launch into a successful adulthood.



The Role of an Arrow Case Manager

- Provides case management services to children and families
- Facilitates placement of children in foster and adoptive homes.
- Participates in development of assessment, service delivery, discharge, and aftercare planning.
- Assists and monitors families in the compliance of licensing/regulatory standards.
- Implements Pre-Admission Assessment and Individual Treatment Plans in conjunction with foster parents and clients, as well as other professionals involved in the case within applicable standard and submit for supervisory approval.
- Provide consultation for foster parents, adoptive parents, biological parents, respite provider, childcare staff, and other caregivers, as indicated.
- Maintain accurate, timely, and complete case notes, billing documentation, treatment plans, progress notes and other documentation according to licensing, accreditation and ministry standards.
- Attends trainings and meetings.

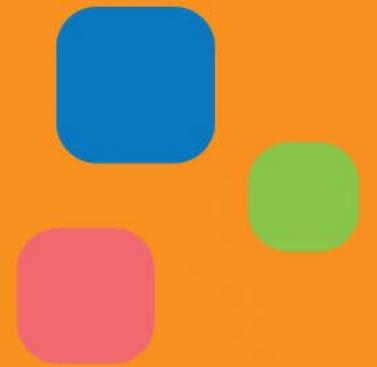


The Role of an Arrow Case Manager

- Participates in case planning conferences, Professional Consulting Team, School meetings, court hearings, staffing, etc., as appropriate.
- Maintains regular contact with family and child and monitors psychological, mental, emotional, physical, and environmental well-being through phone contacts, email, and home visits.
- Helps families develop a therapeutic milieu conducive to healthy child development. Delivers direct therapeutic intervention to child and family.
- Provides crisis intervention as needed to prevent escalation of high-risk behavior, relapse, hospitalization, placement disruption, and other negative outcomes on a 24-hour on-call basis.
- Consults with medical doctors and other specialists, and/or treatment team members concerning treatment plans and amends plans as needed.
- Inputs and updates child and family information into the Arrow client information system.
- Maintain child and/or family records in Arrow's electronic client information system utilizing assigned Arrow technology resources. These resources may include, but are not limited to: desktop computers, laptop computers, touchscreen devices, and scanners.
- Conducts quarterly evaluations, creates corrective action plans and monitors foster homes.



Transracial and Cross-Cultural Adoption





Transracial and Cross-Cultural Adoption

Transracial or cross-cultural adoption means placing a child who is of one race or ethnic group with adoptive parents of another race or ethnic group.



Suggestions for a Successful Transracial Adoption

- According to Adopt US Kids there are key things to put into action with a transracial or cross-cultural adoption:
- **Find mentors and role models for your child**
Because you are their parent, your child will turn to you for guidance in many areas. But there may be questions related to their race and culture that you cannot answer and problems you simply cannot understand. Involving adults in your child's life who share their culture will give them valuable role models and allies. Also, surround your child with positive images and stories of people from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds, including their own.

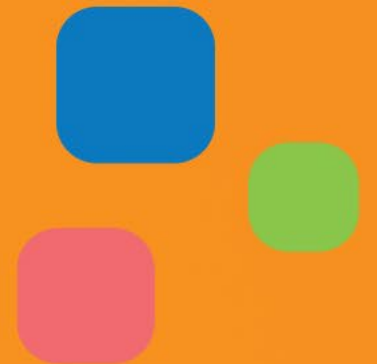


Suggestions for a Successful Transracial Adoption

- **Make new connections in your community**

Adopting a child of a different race or culture is an opportunity to explore new resources and get involved with organizations in your community.

- Enroll your child in a diverse school.
- Join community groups dedicated to racial or social justice.
- Participate in a faith community that reflects your adopted child's heritage.
- Seek out cultural events, but be sure that your involvement does not end with attending an annual celebration.



Suggestions for a Successful Transracial Adoption

- **Keep Children Talking!**

Find opportunities to bring up topics of race and culture in everyday life. Do not wait for your child to introduce the topic. The news, popular media, music, art, and books all offer platforms for discussing race, culture, assumptions, and diversity.

Encouraging honest conversations will help create an environment where your child feels safe to explore their heritage.



Suggestions for a Successful Transracial Adoption

- **Acknowledge Racism**

Part of adopting a child of another background can be helping them cope with and respond to racism. As a parent of a different race or culture from your child, you may have to educate yourself before you can help your child navigate the complicated racial landscape of our country.

You can read more about understanding racism and find five tips to help adoptive parents address racial trauma in the blog post published by Psychology@Pepperdine University.



Suggestions for a Successful Transracial Adoption

- **Embrace new traditions**

In addition to celebrating your child's traditions and the traditions of their heritage, celebrate those of other cultures. Your child will learn to value and respect diversity and see that you value the positive contributions that people of all cultures make to society.





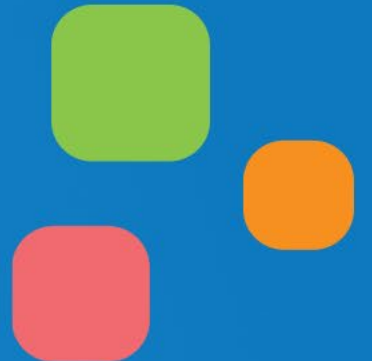
Adoption

Special Needs Adoption and Benefits

Special Needs Adoption Criteria

The child must be younger than 18 years old and meet one of the following criteria when the adoptive placement agreement is signed:

- 1.The child is at least six years old;
- 2.the child is at least two years old and a member of a racial or ethnic group that exits foster care at a slower pace than other racial or ethnic groups;
- 3.the child is being adopted with a sibling or to join a sibling; or
- 4.The child has a verifiable physical, mental, or emotional disabling condition, as established by an appropriately qualified professional through a diagnosis that addresses: (a) what the condition is; and (b) that the condition is disabling.



State Adoption Assistance Requirements

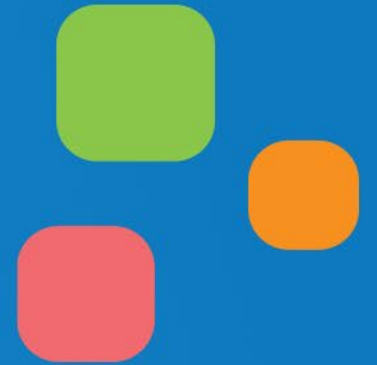
The following six requirements must be met for a child to be eligible for state adoption assistance:

1. The child must not be eligible for Title IV-E adoption assistance.
2. The child must qualify as "special needs," as described in the previous slide at the time the adoptive placement agreement is signed.
3. Reasonable efforts must have been made to place the child without adoption assistance, except when to do so was contrary to the child's best interest.
4. The child must be placed in an approved adoptive placement with DFPS as the child's managing conservator. For both relative and non-relative placements, the adoptive home must meet all of the requirements for approval under licensing minimum standards, including criminal records checks.
5. The child's resources must be less than \$10,000.
6. The adoption assistance agreement must be signed before the adoption is consummated.



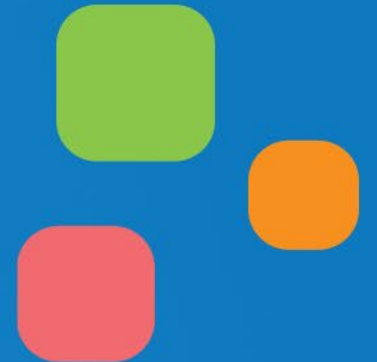
Program Benefits

- **Medicaid health care coverage** for the adopted child. This benefit assists with the child's medical and dental care, eye care, durable medical equipment and supplies, psychiatric/behavioral health care, and medical transportation.
- **Reimbursement for certain one-time expenses** relating to completing the adoption process (non-recurring adoption expenses). This benefit provides reimbursement up to \$1,200 per adoption for reasonable and necessary adoption expenses directly related to completing the adoption process. These expenses may include fees paid directly to child placing agencies as well as court costs, attorney fees, and other fees directly related to the legal completion of the adoption.



Program Benefits

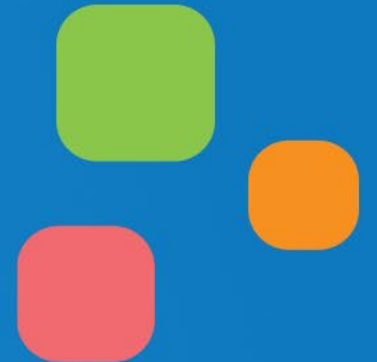
- **Monthly payments to assist with the child's needs.** The monthly adoption assistance payments are determined based upon the child's special needs and the adoptive family's circumstances. Assistance is considered for the following types of special needs:
 - Exceptional initial placement expenses.
 - Special maintenance.
 - Childcare.
 - Supportive educational needs.
 - Maintaining sibling/other family contact.
 - Routine maintenance when needed.



Program Benefits

Payment Ceilings for Adoption Assistance

- The payment ceilings are established by the DFPS Board and are based upon two separate amounts. For children whose service level is Basic at the time of adoptive placement the ceiling is \$400 per month. For children whose service level is Moderate or higher, the payment ceiling is \$545 per month. The payment ceilings cannot be exceeded and are not automatically provided to any child.



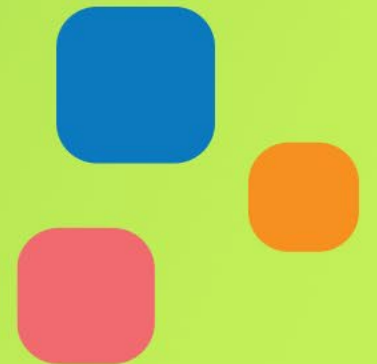


Adoption Disruption and Dissolution

What does Disruption and Dissolution Mean?

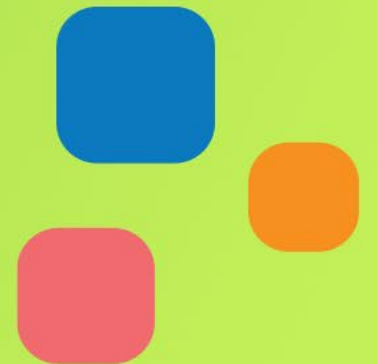
Adoption Disruption - The term disruption is used to describe an adoption process that ends after the child is placed in an adoptive home and before the adoption is legally finalized, resulting in the child's return to (or entry into) foster care or placement with new adoptive parents.

Adoption Dissolution - The term dissolution is generally used to describe an adoption in which the legal relationship between the adoptive parents and adoptive child is severed, either voluntarily or involuntarily, **after** the adoption is legally finalized.



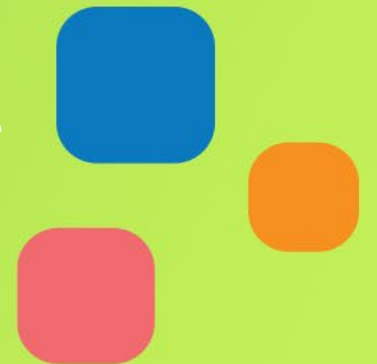
Indicators for Adoption Disruption

- High expectations of the adoptive child
- Parents want child to meet their emotional needs
- Parents scapegoating the child - child is blamed for all problems, fearful of child, unfounded fears about the child, favoritism among children
- Parents threaten child's placement openly
- Parents identify their own past abuse with child



Ways to Support and Prevent Disruption or Dissolution

- adoption assistance that meets the child/youth's needs
- consistent, affordable access to all needed services, including a social worker or post-adoption service worker, parent support groups, training on adoption and special needs, medical care, respite care, etc.
- access to affordable, effective in-home family therapy, other mental health services, and temporary out-of-home mental health treatment
- support in maintaining any connections to birth family members (including siblings) and past caregivers and others important to the child/youth
- crisis intervention services



Arrow's Behavioral Health Services

- Arrow's primary objective is to come alongside caregivers and children to help fill their toolbox with new, highly adaptive coping skills. We refer to these as "cognitive" coping skills. Children often behave the way they do because they don't know how to respond any other way. Our Behavioral Support Specialists' efforts are to help children both learn and follow new, specific, cognitive steps that allow them to get their needs met without resorting to the use of familiar maladaptive emotionally driven coping skills.
- There is no cost to participants or their families as long as they qualify for services under the Texas Medicaid Program with Superior HealthPlan.
- A Referral can be made through Arrow's Website at arrow.org





Community Resources, Post Adoption Services, and Adoption Tax Credit

Post Adoption Services

- Post Adoption Services help the adoptive family and adopted after the adoption has been finalized
- Post Adoption Services available include:
 - Casework or service planning;
 - Support groups;
 - Parent training;
 - Post adoption counseling, including day treatment services;
 - Respite care; and
 - Residential treatment services.
- Agencies providing Post Adoption services in your region are listed on the DFPS website.
https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Adoption/adoption_support.asp



Adoption Tax Credit

- For adoptions finalized in 2023 (tax returns claimed in 2024), the maximum amount a family can receive as credit is \$15,950 per adopted child. For adoptions finalized in 2022 (tax returns claimed in 2023), the maximum amount a family can receive as credit is \$14,890 per adopted child. Going forward, the amount of the credit will slightly increase each year because it is based upon a “cost of living” calculation. The numbers that define the lower and upper limits of income eligibility also will fluctuate since they are based upon current cost of living.
- To take the full benefit of the adoption tax credit, we recommend that you consult with a tax professional who will help you determine the extent of the tax credit available to you. Nonetheless, here are our answers to the most common questions about the adoption tax credit and how it works



Resources for this Curriculum

- CPS Handbook - <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Menu/MenuCPS6000.asp>
- DFPS Website - https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/Adoption/adoption_assistance.asp
- Adopt US Kids - <https://www.adoptuskids.org>



