



The Adoptee Collective

Treatise on Adoptee Centered Adoption & Foster Practice

• *defining adoptee centered adoption and foster practice* •

1. Adoptee Centered adoption and foster practice sees the child as the primary client, with the family and siblings secondary.
2. Adoptee Centered adoption and foster practice sees the primary goal in every decision to be the best interest of the child.
3. Adoptee Centered adoption and foster practice honors the biological family and considers family preservation and strengthening to be the first priority and approach.
4. Adoptee Centered adoption and foster practice acknowledges that in an ideal world, adoption and foster care would not be needed. However, when adoption and foster care are necessary, these processes should center on the child's needs as primary, and the child's long-term wellness and wholeness, honoring the adult the child will someday be.
5. Adoptee Centered adoption and foster practice does not erase the child's birth culture but does all within its power to help the child fully feel and identify with their culture.
6. Adoptee Centered adoption and foster practice honors all the chapters of the child's story – every part of their story and everyone in their lives. Adoptee Centered practice upholds the sacred space of the child's full history, including their biological family.
7. Adoptee Centered adoption and foster practice upholds the dignity of the child and their confidentiality, allowing the child to share their own story in their own words in their own time.
8. Adoptee Centered adoption and foster practice acknowledges that children should never be presumed to be grateful or lucky to be adopted, as the brokenness that led to adoption and foster care does not leave the child indebted to anyone.
9. Adoptee Centered adoption and foster practice does not perpetuate a savior mentality on the part of the adoptive or foster families.
10. Adoptee Centered adoption and foster practice is built on being trauma informed and searching, in every way, to access resources and tools toward the child's healing.
11. Adoptee Centered adoption and foster practice is open and honest, honoring to the child and their history and culture, and refuses past practices of secrecy, dishonesty, and consumerism that treats the child as a commodity.