

Family Dynamics Right-Time Theme

Brief Overview:

This theme is best for families who are in the process of becoming a foster or adoptive parent or families who have just recently started this journey. The theme will provide critical information that a family needs to think about in regards to how bringing children into their home through foster care or adoption will impact their marriage, children already in the home, relations with extended family and friends and overall schedule. This theme also provides information on what families should consider when determining how and when to bring new children into their home including making informed decisions regarding the age of children and types of behaviors that the family could effectively handle.

Knowledge Competencies:

- Define how fostering/adopting can impact all people in the family and their existing relationships.
- Understand the emotional stress that can result from fostering/adopting and how this might impact their family functioning.
- Understand the importance of birth order and how changes to this can cause challenges for children.
- Understand techniques for responding to unaccepting extended family members.
- Understand how to prepare children already in the home with information and support regarding the families' decision to foster/adopt.

Attitude Competencies:

- Willing to change family environment to incorporate the needs of children.
- Willing to assess their family in order to make an informed decision about the ages of children and the behaviors they bring that they would effectively be able to parent.
- Willing to assess the impact of fostering/adopting on all members of their current family.

Target Audience:

This right-time theme is applicable to parents who are fostering or adopting that are not related, kinship caregivers, and foster and adoptive parents who are American Indian Alaska Native, and parents who have adopted private domestically or via the intercountry process.