

PARTLY CLOUDY OR PARTLY SUNNY???



PURPOSE OF FLYERS AND BRIEF PRESENTATIONS-----

- TO HIGHLIGHT THE TYPES OF CHILDREN WAITING FOR ADOPTION
- TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN ADOPTION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
- TO GIVE WAITING CHILDREN AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE SEEN BY PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES
- IT IS **NOT** INTENDED TO SHARE SPECIFICS OF THE CHILD'S PAST AS IN A FORMAL PRESENTATION TO AN IDENTIFIED FAMILY

WHILE WE SHOULD NEVER MISREPRESENT A CHILD, IT IS CRITICAL TO GENERATE INTEREST BY USING FLYERS OR MAKING BRIEF PRESENTATIONS THAT PROVIDE POSITIVE INFORMATION

HELPFUL GUIDELINES-----

1. **USE SNAPPY PHRASES** AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FLYER/PRESENTATION.
 - *THIS HANDSOME GUY IS 5 YEAR OLD JUSTIN!!!!
 - *SAY "HELLO" TO 9 YEAR OLD BILLY AND HIS LITTLE SISTER MARY, AGE 3!!!
 - *THESE HAPPY YOUNGSTERS ARE JENNIFER, EDDIE AND JACK!!!!
 - *THIS BUNDLE OF ENERGY IS 8 YEAR OLD ROBERT!!!
2. **DO NOT** USE PHRASES SUCH AS "THIS CHILD HAS ALOT OF PROBLEMS". THE WORD "PROBLEMS" CREATES A DOOM AND GLOOM IMPRESSION. ALTERNATE WORDS LIKE "CHALLENGES" OR "NEEDS" SUGGESTS THAT THIS CHILD NEEDS A FAMILY TO SUCCEED. IT PUTS THE DESCRIPTION IN A PARENTING FORM.
3. DESCRIBE NEEDS OR CHALLENGES IN TERMS OF **HOW THE CHILD HAS IMPROVED**, IS PROGRESSING OR HOW THE CHILD'S CURRENT FAMILY IS HELPING THE CHILD.
4. **AVOID THE USE OF CLINICAL OR SOCIAL WORK LINGO** AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH SUCH TERMS. USE "USER FRIENDLY WORDS" SUCH AS:
 - ADHD-----HIGH ENERGY, BUSY, ACTIVE, BUSTLING, CHIPPER, LIVELY, FRISKY
 - SPECIFIC MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS-----HEALTH NEEDS, MEDICAL CONCERNS
 - ATTENTION SEEKING-----EAGER TO PLEASE, PERFORMER, LIKES TO PLAY GAMES AND SPORTS WITH ADULTS
 - MR/DD-----LEARNING CHALLENGES, EXTRA HELP WITH LEARNING
 - OPPOSITIONAL-----DETERMINED, INTENT, PERSISTENT, STEADFAST
 - EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS-----NEEDS HELP UNDERSTANDING HIS PAST, IS WORKING ON HIS FEELINGS ABOUT HIS BIRTH FAMILY
 - SCHOOL FAILURE-----DISCUSS WHAT SUBJECTS HE IS DOING WELL IN!!!
5. **ALWAYS** INCLUDE PERSONAL INFORMATION SUCH AS THE CHILD'S FAVORITE FOOD, TOY, SPORT, GAME, ACTIVITY, TV SHOW, MOVIE, CARTOON CHARACTER.

HIGHLIGHT THE CHILD'S SKILLS, ABILITIES, DESIRE FOR A FAMILY, ABILITY TO GIVE AND RECEIVE AFFECTION, PLEASING PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND ENDEARING QUALITIES. THESE APPEAL TO FAMILIES!!!!

6. **USE PICTURES THAT ARE APPEALING!** IF THE PICTURE IS TOO SMALL, CUT UP, POOR QUALITY OR OLD, IT DEFEATS THE PURPOSE. MAKE SURE THAT THE CHILD IS CLEAN, NEATLY DRESSED AND IN A GOOD MOOD!!! MAKE SURE THAT LIGHTING IS GOOD SO THAT A CHILD'S FACIAL FEATURES CAN BE SEEN CLEARLY.
7. IF YOU DO NOT KNOW THE CHILD WELL, **ASK THE FOSTER PARENT FOR INFORMATION.**
8. **LIMIT INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIRTH FAMILY** TO GENERAL, NON-IDENTIFYING DATA. IF THE INFORMATION IS TOO BLEAK, THIS CAN CREATE A LIFELONG NEGATIVE FEELING FOR THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY ABOUT BIRTH FAMILIES IN GENERAL.
9. **DISCUSS HOW A FAMILY CAN HELP THE CHILD.** FOR EXAMPLE.....
 - JAMES NEEDS SOMEONE TO HELP HIM WITH HIS HOMEWORK.
 - A FAMILY WHO WILL MAKE SURE THAT RALPH'S HEALTH NEEDS ARE MET IS BEING SOUGHT.
 - SALLY IS HOPING FOR A FAMILY WHO ENJOYS THE OUTDOORS AND LIKES BEING ACTIVE!!!
 - A SPORTS MINDED FAMILY IS IMPORTANT TO JOHN AND MARK.
10. **CONSIDER HAVING THE YOUTH WRITE THEIR OWN PROFILE.** WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM YOU, IT CAN BE A GREAT EXPERIENCE AND REFLECT WHO THE CHILD IS. THE CHILD IS MORE LIKELY TO SHARE THEIR INTERESTS, ABILITIES AND DESIRE FOR A FAMILY.
11. **FOLLOW UP ON ALL LEADS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!!!!!**

