

FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE & FOREVER FAMILIES



Meeting #5

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME

- Talk to your child about their Inside My Heart Puzzle
- Set short-term and long-term goals of things you would like to do together
- Watch:
Meet the Robinsons
Stewart Little

Understanding “Evolution of Preparation for Permanency”

“From the time that children and youth are removed from family care, they face numerous emotional stressors as they adjust to their ever-changing status: for example, foster child, dependent child, former adopted person, delinquent, and various diagnostic labels, among others. They are challenged by new surroundings and must come to some level of understanding of what happened to them, as well as affirm their own identity and allow themselves to create new relationships and redefine existing ones without protective adult relationships to support and guide them.

Achieving permanency is not just an **outcome** for these children and youth; it is a **process**. Whatever their legal status may be, at all ages, they are most interested in the relational permanency that they can find, create, maintain, or develop in the safety of a parent-child relationship. Ensuring that children and youth are ready for relational and/or legal permanency, in what has proven to them to be a world that offers little stability, is a critical step.”

Child Welfare Information Gateway
Preparing Children and Youth for Adoption or Other Family Permanency
https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/preparing_youth.pdf

- Read the book, “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle
- Following the book and story board, the group discussed any changes in their lives they may have noticed over the past 5 weeks. Each child was given material to create a butterfly, signifying positive changes

“He was a beautiful butterfly”

- Read the book, “We Belong Together” by Todd Parr
- Inside My Heart Puzzle- pictures of special individuals were drawn on each puzzle piece to represent someone loved by each child. Puzzle pieces are often taken apart but have a tight fit when put back together.

