**Important Things to Know About the Children the** [**A-OK Program**](http://adoptionstar.com/i-want-to-adopt/ok-program-adopt-older-kid-program/) **Will Be Matching With Adoptive Families:**

- Most waiting children will be in foster homes and some may be in residential group placements.

- All children will have experienced loss, abuse, and neglect in varying degrees.

- All children will have experienced fear, anxiety, anger, grief, shame and confusion.

- It is not uncommon for children’s behavior to reflect all the pain they have inside.

- All children require parents who are committed and who have skills and knowledge to help them overcome the effects of earlier trauma and deprivation.

- An older child entering a new adoptive home cannot deny the past, nor should be asked or expected to.

- Adopting an older child is exhausting, heart breaking, and will create stress in other relationships. It is also beautiful, doable and life changing.

**The following are articles that provide glimpses into what it is like to parent a child adopted from foster care:**

[What I Want You to Know: Adopting an Older Child](http://www.rageagainsttheminivan.com/2011/06/what-i-want-you-to-know-adopting-older.html)

[The Painful Reality of Adopting Older Children Who Have Experienced Trauma](http://www.chicagonow.com/portrait-of-an-adoption/2013/03/reality-of-adopting-older-kids-who-have-experienced-trauma/)

[Foster Children – Is It PTSD, or Complex Trauma Instead?](https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/blogger-co-op/foster-children-is-it-ptsd-or-complex-trauma-instead/2844)

[Trauma Doesn’t Tell Time](https://gobbelcounseling.wordpress.com/2013/06/13/trauma-doesnt-tell-time/)

[Preparing Older Children for Adoption (National Council for Adoption 7 page Booklet)](https://www.adoptioncouncil.org/images/stories/documents/NCFA_ADOPTION_ADVOCATE_NO54.pdf)

**The following are books we highly recommend when considering adopting an older child:**

[Attachment Parenting: Developing Connections and Healing Children](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/attachment-parenting-developing-connections-and-healing-children/), *Arthur Becker-Weidman and Deborah Shell*

[Parenting the Hurt Child: Helping Adoptive Families Heal and Grow](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/parenting-the-hurt-child-helping-adoptive-families-heal-and-grow-hollywood-nobody/), *Gregory C. Keck and Regina M. Kupecky*

[Keeping Your Adoptive Family Strong: Strategies for Success](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/keeping-your-adoptive-family-strong-strategies-for-success/), *Gregory C. Keck and L. Gianforte*

[Healing Parents: Helping Wounded Children Learn to Trust & Love](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/attachment-trauma-healing-understanding-and-treating-attachment-disorder-in-children-families-and-adults/), *Terry M. Levy and Michael Orlans*

[Attachment Focused Parenting: Effective Strategies to Care for Children](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/attachment-focused-parenting-effective-strategies-to-care-for-children-norton-professional-books/), *Daniel A. Hughes*

[Attachment Focused Family Therapy Workbook](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/attachment-focused-family-therapy-workbook/), *Daniel A. Hughes*

[Building the Bonds of Attachment: Awakening Love in Deeply Troubled Children](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/building-the-bonds-of-attachment-awakening-love-in-deeply-troubled-children/), *Daniel A. Hughes*

[Brain-Based Parenting: The Neuroscience of Caregiving for Healthy Attachment](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/brain-based-parenting-the-neuroscience-of-caregiving-for-healthy-attachment-norton-series-on-interpersonal-neurobiology/), *Daniel A. Hughes and Jonathan Baylin*

[Creating Loving Attachments](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/creating-loving-attachments-parenting-with-pace-to-nurture-confidence-and-security-in-the-troubled-child/), *Daniel A. Hughes and Kim Golding*

[The Connected Child](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/the-connected-child-bring-hope-and-healing-to-your-adoptive-family/), *Karyn B. Purvis and David R. Cross*

[Our Own: Adopting and Parenting the Older Child](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/our-own-adopting-and-parenting-the-older-child/), *Trish Maskew*

[Parenting Your Adopted Older Child: How to Overcome the Unique Challenges and Raise a Happy and Healthy Child](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/parenting-your-adopted-older-child-how-to-overcome-the-unique-challenges-and-raise-a-happy-and-healthy-child/), *Brenda McCreight*

[Telling the Truth to Your Adopted or Foster Child](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/telling-the-truth-to-your-adopted-or-foster-child-making-sense-of-the-past/), *Jayne E. Schooler and Betsy Keefer*

[Three Little Words](http://www.tapestrybooks.com/product/three-little-words-a-memoir/), *Ashley Rhodes-Courter*

**Organizations:**

[Association for Training on Trauma and Attachment in Children](https://attach.org/)

[Center for Family Development](http://www.center4familydevelop.com/)