

Adoption Connection

DCFS Quarterly Newsletter for Adoptive Families



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Let's Talk About Adoption

Sharing Difficult Information

from [The Center for Adoption Support and Education](#)

When a child's or birth parents' stories include abuse, neglect, drug use, mental illness, or other serious challenges, it can really be hard for parents to talk with the child about the adoption. Some parents may want to withhold information to protect their child or avoid hard conversations and questions. Other parents may want to share, but do not know how to proceed.

Why Share

Most adoption professionals and adoptees agree that withholding information is not in the child's best interests. Instead, they believe that children have the right to know everything that the adoptive parents know about the child and birth family. They advise parents to consider the ways in which all aspects of the adoption story help children better understand and accept why they were placed for adoption.

Instead of protection, most professionals underscore the value of building resiliency in children by teaching them the skills they will need to cope with many of life's challenges. Sharing truths and supporting children to understand and deal with related emotions can help build a sense of trust between parent and child.

When You Share

- Consider the child's age and ability to understand.
- Always be truthful.
- Create a safe space for discussion and questions.
- Help children make sense of the information.
- Respect and show empathy for the birth parents.
- Practice until you are comfortable.
- Partner with birth parents when possible.
- Get professional help if you need it.

Read the full article [here](#).

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



DCFS joins Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and other community partners in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and VIA LINK are offering several activities throughout the month, including the **Virtual Panel Discussion, "Clearing Up the Continuum of Care," on Thursday, April 17 from 12 - 1 pm.**

Representatives from Child Welfare and Family Support, along with CASA and Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana, will discuss how coordinated efforts among healthcare providers, educators, and community agencies can foster a network of care that enhances healing, resilience, and long-term prevention. One General Social Work CEU will be offered. Email Sherrard Crespo at screspo@vialink.org to register.

State Office Closures:

April 18 - Good Friday

July 4 - Independence Day

Tax Tips: Adoption Tax Credit and Deduction

The Louisiana Department of Revenue and DCFS have partnered to provide the following information about your tax filing.

Are you eligible for an Adoption Tax Credit on your federal tax return?

- Adoptive parents may qualify for a tax credit on their federal tax return.
- The credit may be allowed for the adoption of a child with special needs even if you do not have any qualifying expenses.
- For more information, contact your tax advisor or go to the Internal Revenue Service's website at www.irs.gov.

Are you eligible for a State Deduction for Certain Adoptions?

- Parents who adopt a child who is in foster care, or a youth receiving extended foster care services, may be eligible.
- Louisiana provides a deduction of \$5,000 for adoptive parents instead of the \$1,000 dependency deduction.
- The deduction can be claimed for the year in which the adoption is finalized.
- The deduction is claimed on [Louisiana Form IT-540, Schedule E](#), using code 30E.

Note: to find more information about the Adoption Tax Credit, view this [IRS webpage](#).

Webinar: Inside Transracial Adoption

Thursday, May 1, 2025

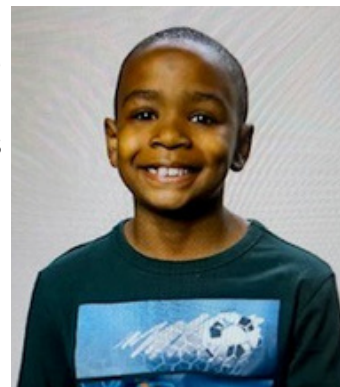
12 - 1:30 pm CDT

- Use coupon code TRANSRACIAL to receive free registration at checkout.
- Click [here](#) to learn more and register.
- CEs for this webinar are available

Inside Transracial Adoption is a window into the journey of an adoptive family with all the highs and lows. Adoptive mother Julie Etter and son Isaac Etter open up to give adoption professionals and adoptive parents a window into their real-life struggles, lessons, and joys. Julie and Isaac will take questions from the audience and provide resources post-presentation.

DCFS Adoption Highlight

Reed is an inquisitive, outgoing, friendly little boy with a big heart. He is very kind and has never met a stranger. He likes being a leader and helping others. Reed loves to attend church, sing, and play football. He would like a family who would attend church with him. Reed also would like to have siblings around, as he enjoys being a brother and role model.



Resources for Adoptive Families

- [DCFS's Adoption Page](#)
- [Center for Adoption Support and Education](#)
- [Louisiana 211](#)
- [988 and Louisiana988.org](#)
- [National Training and Development Curriculum \(NTDC\) for foster and adoptive parents](#)