

Identity Needs of Children Placed Cross-Racially/Culturally

The following is a self-assessment for a parent's capacity and ability to meet the following unique identity needs of children who live with a family of a race or culture other than his/her own. In addition to the qualities necessary to enhance the normal development of any child in placement, these needs are:

- To live in an environment that provides the child an opportunity to participate in positive experiences with their culture, religion, and language.
- To have association with same race adult and peer role models and relationships on an ongoing basis.
- For environmental experiences that teach survival, problem-solving, and coping skills which give the child a sense of racial and ethnic pride.
- A parent who can understand and relate to the child's life and daily relationship to racial and cultural differences and who can respond to those experiences with acceptance, understanding, and empathy.
- For a parent who accepts and can help the child accept the child's racial and cultural ancestry and can comfortably share knowledge and information about the child's racial and cultural ancestry with the child.
- For the child to have adults around them who understand what it feels like for the child to look different from their parent.
- To have a parent that has knowledge of special dietary, skin, hair and health care needs.