

Life Story Books

Background Notes

The placement of a child in an adoptive family forever changes the child's history. Although traumatic events have caused the child to be adopted through the child welfare system they still need to know their family history and have information about their birth parents, siblings and extended family. The completion of life story books is the caseworker's responsibility and can affect the child lifelong.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Ask your Supervisor who does the best life story books in your office. Talk to that worker about their process for completing the books.
- Ask to review an example or two of a completed book. Pay particular attention to the story of how/why the child came into care and what documents are in the book.
- Ask the same worker about the use of and effect of the life story books on the children. Find out when and how children receive their books.
- Find out what materials and assistance are available to use in the construction of the books.

Discoveries:

- How is the abuse/neglect explained in the book?*
- What information does the child have about their parents?*
- How does the worker make time to complete the book?*
- Is there any help available for completing the book?*

