



PROTECTIVE FACTORS

There are qualities parents possess that support positive adjustment after adoption or guardianship, including:

- Realistic expectations
- Appropriate parenting skills
- Capacity to manage responses
- Unconditional commitment to the child

How might you use this list in your assessment of and interactions with families post-permanency?

Become a Coach:

Module 8 Lesson 3 is rich with resources relevant to these protective factors. Provide a listing of the resources to families and coach them to adjust expectations, learn new parenting skills, and make an unconditional commitment to their child. Welcome questions and validate their experiences and efforts. Convey to them that their fears and stresses are normal, and that seeking help is not a sign of failure – but rather strength. Open dialogue will feel supportive and will benefit everyone.

POST ADOPTION SERVICES



Handout - Finding and Using Post Adoption Services is a valuable resource to keep and use with families. Although resources may have been provided in pre-adoption training, they often get lost along the way. Make copies of this handout and distribute at parent meetings, home visits, etc.



Are there additional resources that your families typically seek out? Take time in a team meeting to develop a list of needs that your adoptive and guardianship families have identified and brainstorm resources that others have found useful. Share positive experiences as well as those providers who were less than helpful.

NTI Training
Improved Competence

Reach Out:

NTI's Training for Mental Health Professionals is also available. Encourage mental health partners with whom you work to enroll?

The more adoption competent therapists in your community, the better the outcomes and experiences will be for children and families!



nurture.
inspire.
empower.



Contact NTI for more information: ntiadmin@adoptionsupport.org

NTI is funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Grant #90CO1121. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the funder, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This information is in the public domain. Readers are encouraged to copy and share it, but please credit the National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative.