

## Lesson Plan

**Lesson:** Choosing Parents

**Time period:** 2 class periods

**Target Grades:** 8-12<sup>th</sup> grade students



### **Key Learning:**

#### **Student Expectations (SE) –**

- Students will identify roles of public services and how adoption services are rendered.
- Students will make applications and analyze the processes and procedures of adoption. They will be able to define the different types of adoptions and reasons an individual or family chooses to adopt or place a child for adoption.
- Students will apply and analyze the decision making process.
- Role play activates will assist in providing the students the opportunity to apply the knowledge they have gained.
- Students will identify how adoption impacts individuals, society, and families in positive ways.
- Students will identify, demonstrate, and evaluate the process birth parents and adoptive parents go through when a child is placed for adoption.

**TEKS Used:** **Health 7-8 TEKS** 4acd, 6a, 10b, 11be, 12abc, 13c; **Health 9-10th TEKS** 1afh, 2c, 5d, 71, 8ab, 9ab, 13d, 14a, 15ab, 16ab, 17c; **Human Growth and development TEKS** 3a, 7e; **Principles of Human Services TEKS** 1ab, 3acf, **Dollars and Sense TEKS** 1d; **Interpersonal Studies TEKS** 1abc, 2abc, 7be, 9abce, **Child Development TEKS** 1ab, **Child Guidance TEKS** 1afh, **Family and Consumer Services TEKS** 1a, 3d, 5b; **Principles of Health Science TEKS** 1fklnq, 9ac, 7b; **Health Science TEKS** 3abcd, 10b, 12b, 7ab,

### **Unit Focus(s):**

Students will learn about the adoption option and the processes followed when placing a child in an adoptive family/making an adoption plan. Students will analyze the process and procedures followed when adoption services are rendered. Students will role play the events while learning about how an adoption takes place through an agency. This unit will also work to build empathy for individuals and families who are either placing a child for adoption or adopting a child. The unit portrays career fields that are needed in the adoption field.

### **Materials Needed:**

- Video
- Power Point
- Flip chart or smart board for recording student responses in discussion

### **Concept(s):**

- Adoption process for birth parents and adoptive parents
- The adoption process and public services rendered
- Adoption Careers and Professionals
- What professions/ services are needed in the Adoption Process (Lawyer, Caseworkers, Social workers, Counselors, etc...)
- Decision making process and evaluation
- Demonstrate empathy towards others

### **Vocabulary and Terminology:**

Open Adoption, Semi-open Adoption, Make an Adoption Plan, Birth Mother, Birth Father, Adoptive Parents

Family options, Post Adoption Reunions, Informal Adoptions, Parent Profile, Placement, Caseworker, Paternity

### **Lesson DAY 1:**

#### **Hook/ prequel to lesson:**

**Video**

**ASK-**

- Why would an expectant parent choose to make an adoption plan?
- Why would a family choose adoption as a means to grow their family?

**Discuss Reasons: financial, academic, social (there are many reasons)**

**How are adoptive parents selected:**

**Review process for birth parents and adoptive parents**

#### **Instruction:**

Today we will learn through role play. Let me tell you who will be involved and what the roles will be.

1. ***Caseworkers- three students*** will be given a sheet of questions and information so that they can accurately portray the role.
2. ***Birth parents- three or four students*** will be chosen by the teacher or by students volunteering to play the role.
3. ***Notary- one student*** will be given an information sheet about this role
4. ***Adoptive parents- all of the remaining students*** will be paired up and complete a profile book together.

#### **Group Activity: (this activity will take two days to complete in class)**

- Explain the specific activity that they will be doing in class
- Students will be given a name and information about their role. Each scenario should include why they are considering adoption or why they think adoption is the best option for their child.

**Overview of what they must complete over the next few class periods:**

#### **Birth mothers:**

Create a list of what is important to them in an adoptive parent home.

**Birth fathers:**

Decide if they want to be involved. They can sign a waiver of interest. Decide on a personal plan as to what they want to accomplish in their own life (school goals, plans to secure employment.) They can assume an active role or an inactive role. Birth fathers can also choose not to respond because this is an actual reality in the adoption process.

**Adoptive parents:**

Create an adoptive parent profile with the notebook provided and tell about your family and what you have to offer a child. Add pictures that show who you are and tell us about your personality.

**Caseworkers:**

Prepare your client to handle the upcoming placement by guiding and giving information about the process. Role-play - Ask questions and allow the clients (adoptive parents or expectant parents) to answer the questions. A worksheet is provided for you to know what questions to ask and how to lead your client in the decision making process.

**Lawyer/ Notary:** provide clients with legal information and help with documents needed.

**What should be accomplished on Day 1:**

1. Discuss the process of adoption for both birth parents and adoptive parents
2. Caseworkers will answer questions for the expectant mother and meet with her for the first time.
3. Adoptive parent roles will begin working on profiles and the caseworkers will assist them.
  - Caseworkers will assist in letting them know if the profiles are appropriate. Caseworkers will have a list of what needs to be in the profile and how it needs to be assembled.

**Class Closure:**

- How has your perception of adoption changed?
- What do you think is most difficult in this process for the expectant parent?
- What do you think is most difficult in this process for the adoptive parents?

**Lesson DAY 2:****Hook/ Prequel to lesson:****Video****Instruction:****Review the Role Play Activity****Review the objectives for the day (finish profiles, questions, and role play the process)****Instruction:**

- Discuss laws (specifically Texas law in regards to adoption)

- Discuss post adoption communication between birth parents and adoptive parents.
  - (Provide terminology of open adoption, semi-open adoption, post adoption support, post adoption reunions)

### **Expectant mothers:**

Create a list of what is important to them in an adoptive parent home. Create questions they would ask in interviewing potential adoptive parents.

### **Expectant fathers:**

Meet with a caseworker and decide how they want to be involved in the process. They can sign a Waiver of Interest. They can assume an active role or an inactive role. They can help create a list of what is important to them in an adoptive parent home.

### **Adoptive parents:**

Complete adoptive parent profiles started the previous day. The profile should be given to the caseworker upon completion.

### **Caseworkers:**

Prepare your client for the upcoming placement by guiding and giving information about the process.

### **What should be accomplished on Day 2:**

- Expectant parents are presented with profiles created by their classmates
- Choose a family
- Activity: stage a phone call or meeting for the first conversation
- Discuss laws and termination of rights
- Role play delivery of baby: (hand a baby doll to the birth mother)
- Go over relinquishment papers
- Role-play a placement

### **Closure:** 5 minutes prior to dismissal

Connect all learning to the objective; reflect on the health benefits of adoption to both individuals and society.

Ask:

- What have you learned through this activity?
- Adoptive parents: How did you decide what to put on your profile?
- How has your perception of adoption changed?
- What do you think is most difficult in this process for the birth parent?
- What do you think is most difficult in this process for the adoptive parents?

Share story of a birth mother's placement and how it benefited all involved. Share an Adoption Reunion story.