

Top 10 things we need to know about Permanency




KAREN MOORE M.A., BA., RSW, ECE



1


Contact information:

Karen Moore
Clinical Director
Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth
kmoore@opendoors.on.ca




2

Agenda:



- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Top 10 things---could have been top 100 things---but time is of the essence
- ▶ Summary
- ▶ Please ask questions as we go---we will also have some time at the end for questions

3



Good Things to know:

- I am not an expert—I am a traveler on the permanency journey—as a professional and a parent
- The slides/points are not in order of importance—they all matter
- We all have expertise on this journey—learning with and beside each other is the most powerful part of the journey

4

#1

Weaving a blanket that has already been started

- ▶ Have you ever tried to finish a sewing or knitting project that someone else started?
- ▶ What do you need for success?
- ▶ What are the challenges?
- ▶ What are the benefits?




5

#2

The change of the dream


- ▶ Parenting planning, dreaming, thinking
- ▶ Guilt and shame
- ▶ We have done what????
- ▶ Who am I REALLY parenting? What is parenting REALLY like?



6

#3
 Claiming---the journey


- ▶ To claim, you need to grieve all that has happened or been for your child—as if you were in their lives at the time----think about this for a minute!!



7

#4
 Professionals
 are sometimes a help...and sometimes not

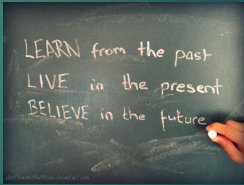
- ▶ What To Look For:
- ▶ What To Look Out For:



8

#5
 You personify your child's past caregivers

- ▶ Until you create a new relationship/ understanding with your child about your relationship with them - you represent all the past caregivers your child has had - **all of them!!**



9

#6

Permanency is an illogical/logical journey - it is always about permanency and it is not always about permanency all at the same time



10

#7 And # 8 and #9 all in one
Behaviour

- ▶ 1) Understand that behaviour is communication—once the message is received (and the child/youth knows/feels that) the behavior no longer has any value - unless it does.
- ▶ 2) Behavior is developmentally and chronologically based - but primarily developmentally based.
- ▶ 3) We must become master translators of behaviour/decode the behaviour - and then adapt our interactions with our children based on that translation
- ▶ 4) Sometimes the most "normal" behavior may seem anything but normal.

11

#10

Self care/keeping yourself healthy

- ▶ This can be an exhausting, tiring, hard journey and a wonderful, amazing, joyful one
- ▶ You get your energy to parent from your energy as a person
- ▶ Energy must be replenished
- ▶ For those parenting as a couple—you also need to replenish your relationship
- ▶ Parenting traumatized children/youth—can feel illogical, lonely, isolating and unsupported—find the people who "get it" so you don't always have to explain yourself, your children, teach to get support



12



Questions, Comments, Thoughts

Karen Moore
kmoore@opendoors.on.ca