PARTLY CLOUDY OR PARTLY SUNNY???

PURPOSE OF FLYERS AND BRIEF PRESENTATIONS----
• TO HIGHLIGHT THE TYPES OF CHILDREN WAITING FOR ADOPTION
• TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN ADOPTION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
• TO GIVE WAITING CHILDREN AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE SEEN BY PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES
• IT IS NOT INTENDED TO SHARE SPECIFICS OF THE CHILD’S PAST AS IN A FORMAL PRESENTATION TO AN IDENTIFIED FAMILY

WHILE WE SHOULD NEVER MISREPRESENT A CHILD, IT IS CRITICAL TO GENERATE INTEREST BY USING FLYERS OR MAKING BRIEF PRESENTATIONS THAT PROVIDE POSITIVE INFORMATION

HELPFUL GUIDELINES----

1. USE SNAPPY PHRASES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FLYER/PRESENTATION.
   * THIS HANDSOME GUY IS 5 YEAR OLD JUSTIN!!!!
   * SAY “HELLO” TO 9 YEAR OLD BILLY AND HIS LITTLE SISTER MARY, AGE 3!!!
   * THESE HAPPY YOUNGSTERS ARE JENNIFER, EDDIE AND JACK!!!!
   * THIS BUNDLE OF ENERGY IS 8 YEAR OLD ROBERT!!!

2. DO NOT USE PHRASES SUCH AS “THIS CHILD HAS ALOT OF PROBLEMS”. THE WORD “PROBLEMS” CREATES A DOOM AND GLOOM IMPRESSION. ALTERNATE WORDS LIKE “CHALLENGES” OR “NEEDS” SUGGESTS THAT THIS CHILD NEEDS A FAMILY TO SUCCEED. IT PUTS THE DESCRIPTION IN A PARENTING FORM.

3. DESCRIBE NEEDS OR CHALLENGES IN TERMS OF HOW THE CHILD HAS IMPROVED, IS PROGRESSING OR HOW THE CHILD’S CURRENT FAMILY IS HELPING THE CHILD.

4. AVOID THE USE OF CLINICAL OR SOCIAL WORK LINGO AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH SUCH TERMS. USE “USER FRIENDLY WORDS” SUCH AS:
   • ADHD------HIGH ENERGY, BUSY, ACTIVE, BUSTLING, CHIPPER, LIVELY, FRISKY
   • SPECIFIC MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS------HEALTH NEEDS, MEDICAL CONCERNS
   • ATTENTION SEEKING-----EAGER TO PLEASE, PERFORMER, LIKES TO PLAY GAMES AND SPORTS WITH ADULTS
   • MR/DD------LEARNING CHALLENGES, EXTRA HELP WITH LEARNING
   • OPPOSITIONAL----------DETERMINED, INTENT, PERSISTENT, STEADFAST
   • EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS------NEEDS HELP UNDERSTANDING HIS PAST, IS WORKING ON HIS FEELINGS ABOUT HIS BIRTH FAMILY
   • SCHOOL FAILURE------DISCUSS WHAT SUBJECTS HE IS DOING WELL IN!!!

5. ALWAYS INCLUDE PERSONAL INFORMATION SUCH AS THE CHILD’S FAVORITE FOOD, TOY, SPORT, GAME, ACTIVITY, TV SHOW, MOVIE, CARTOON CHARACTER.

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HIGHLIGHT THE CHILD’S SKILLS, ABILITIES, DESIRE FOR A FAMILY, ABILITY TO GIVE AND RECEIVE AFFECTION, PLEASING PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND ENDEARING QUALITIES. THESE APPEAL TO FAMILIES!!!!

6. USE PICTURES THAT ARE APPEALING! IF THE PICTURE IS TOO SMALL, CUT UP, POOR QUALITY OR OLD, IT DEFEATS THE PURPOSE. MAKE SURE THAT THE CHILD IS CLEAN, NEATLY DRESSED AND IN A GOOD MOOD!!! MAKE SURE THAT LIGHTING IS GOOD SO THAT A CHILD’S FACIAL FEATURES CAN BE SEEN CLEARLY.

7. IF YOU DO NOT KNOW THE CHILD WELL, ASK THE FOSTER PARENT FOR INFORMATION.

8. LIMIT INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIRTH FAMILY TO GENERAL, NON-IDENTIFYING DATA. IF THE INFORMATION IS TOO BLEAK, THIS CAN CREATE A LIFELONG NEGATIVE FEELING FOR THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY ABOUT BIRTH FAMILIES IN GENERAL.

9. DISCUSS HOW A FAMILY CAN HELP THE CHILD. FOR EXAMPLE.....
   • JAMES NEEDS SOMEONE TO HELP HIM WITH HIS HOMEWORK.
   • A FAMILY WHO WILL MAKE SURE THAT RALPH’S HEALTH NEEDS ARE MET IS BEING SOUGHT.
   • SALLY IS HOPING FOR A FAMILY WHO ENJOYS THE OUTDOORS AND LIKES BEING ACTIVE!!!
   • A SPORTS MINDED FAMILY IS IMPORTANT TO JOHN AND MARK.

10. CONSIDER HAVING THE YOUTH WRITE THEIR OWN PROFILE. WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM YOU, IT CAN BE A GREAT EXPERIENCE AND REFLECT WHO THE CHILD IS. THE CHILD IS MORE LIKELY TO SHARE THEIR INTERESTS, ABILITIES AND DESIRE FOR A FAMILY.

11. FOLLOW UP ON ALL LEADS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!!!!!