

SUPPORTING ADOPTION PERMANENCY

How well children and their families adapt to adoption depends on a few things, including social environments, biology, and time (see [figure](#) below). This document reviews information associated with adoption permanency.

- **BEFORE ADOPTION, PARENTS' SHOULD LEARN ABOUT...**

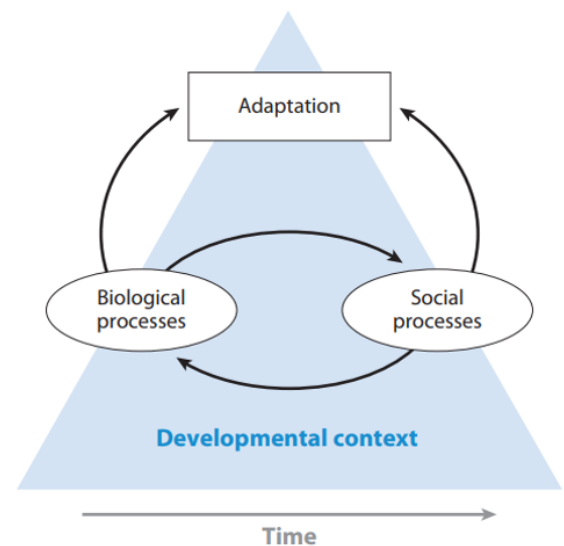
- Birth parents' medical histories
- Children's health and [medical history](#) (e.g., history of malnourishment, low birth weight, documented disabilities)
- Children's pre-adoption living conditions (e.g., whether children were in institutionalized care, such as orphanages, have a history of trauma/abuse)
- Children's [age at adoption](#)
- Trans-racial and trans-cultural parenting

- **IS THIS INFORMATION COLLECTED?**

- The child's health during the adoption process is most likely to be known. Family medical and child vaccination histories are often lacking, but this [varies by children's native countries](#).

- **ADOPTION SUPPORTS/SERVICES**

- Types of adoption supports
 - Information and referral
 - Education and training
 - Family support
 - Mental health and crisis intervention
- Supports are not just needed during and immediately after the adoption process - challenges can occur throughout children's development (e.g., during teenage years).
- Some resources for parents are available online through sites such as [MN ADOPT](#). Others are sometimes available through local adoption service providers and programs/[clinics](#), but often at a cost.
- Evidence from the MN ADOPT program, which offers services across the adoption continuum, suggests that parents tend to seek phone/email support on the following issues:
 - Child emotional-behavioral issues
 - Caregiver strain
 - School-related challenges
 - Adoption-specific resources/assistance



Fact sheet by Brittany Gay, M.A., brit11@umbc.edu
July 25, 2019