

WHAT TO DO AT TODAY'S ADOPTION PARTY

1. TAKE TIME TO:

- If you are new to the process, attend the workshop that will discuss the adoption process.
- Discover the information area (this is a good place for people who are new to the process to start).
- Check the "Today's Waiting Children" booklet featuring children at the party; please be discreet with this booklet around the children.
- Look through the MARE Photolisting Book. (Many of these children will not be at the event. If you are interested in a child who is not at the event, please fill out a FOLLOW-UP form and place it in the appropriate box. Someone from MARE will call you the following week to give you more information.)
- Sign-up for MARE's adoption party mailing list to receive the MARE newsletter and future adoption party invitations.

2. INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO SOCIAL WORKERS AT THE PARTY.

Even if social workers did not bring a child with your desired characteristics, they might have other children on their caseload or know of other children in their agency. Adoption parties are a great place to network with social workers and other prospective adoptive parents.

If you are looking for a particular social worker, please go to the information area and ask a MARE staff person in a red t-shirt.

3. GET INVOLVED.

Help the children join in the activities of the party. They may be nervous or shy, and need encouragement. You can volunteer to help, or join in the activities yourself.

Talk to the children about things they enjoy doing, or compliment a nice outfit or a nice smile.

!!CAUTION!! Do not ask the children about adoption, foster care or whether they want to be adopted. These are very personal things to share with a stranger. Please don't make any promises and always be honest. If you are interested in learning more about a particular child, talk to the child's social worker, but not in front of the child.

4. IF YOU FEEL HESITANT OR HAVE A QUESTION,

seek out a MARE staff person.

Remember: Adoption parties focus on sharing information, making friends, and becoming more familiar with the process. Matches may happen, or they may not; we hope that they will. In any event, discovering new friends, both workers and parents, can increase your adoption network!