



MARE'S ADOPTION PARTY GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

1. **IF YOU ARE NEW TO ADOPTION, TAKE TIME TO:**
 - Attend the workshop that will discuss the adoption process.
 - Discover the information area.
2. **FOR ALL FAMILIES:**
 - Check the "Today's Waiting Children" booklet featuring children at the party; please be discreet with this booklet around the children.
 - Sign-up for MARE's mailing lists to receive the MARE newsletter and future adoption party invitations.
3. **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 or registration areas and ask a MARE staff person.
4. **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.**
5. **IF YOU FEEL HESITANT OR HAVE A QUESTION**, seek out a MARE staff person at the registration table.

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!