

## TRANSITIONS

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### CHECKLIST

\_\_\_ **Time for Transitioning:** Timing needs to be set to the particular child. Both the prior family and the new family need to take their cues on readiness from the child, whatever the context of the prior family and the new family.

\_\_\_ **Permission to Grieve.** Losses are inevitable when a child changes homes even when it is a change the child wanted. The child needs permission to grieve those losses.

\_\_\_ **Permission to Love.** Children need to hear and feel from the people who are important to them that it is all right to love another family.

\_\_\_ **Time and permission to say Good-bye.** Children need to say good-bye to all of their important connections, caregivers, neighbors, baby-sitters, friends, teachers, class-mates, including pets.

\_\_\_ **Belongings.** Children need to have things that belong to them, to be able to take their belongings to a new home, and to have those belongings respected at the new home.

\_\_\_ **Continuing Contact.** Ideally, prior primary caregivers and other significant connections remain caring persons in the child's life. All children can benefit from multiple healthy relationships.