



Wisconsin  
Adoption &  
Permanency  
Support

# USING BOOKS TO GUIDE ADOPTION DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR CHILD

## IDEAS TO START CONVERSATIONS AROUND THE COMPLEXITIES OF ADOPTION

### PLANNING

**Choose** a book and read it yourself

**Reflect** on what you think - Do you like the book? What is your favorite part? What made you uncomfortable? What might be difficult to talk about?

**Brainstorm** questions ahead of time - this allows you to be intentional with your conversation

**Carve out space** - Set yourself and your child up for success

### READING

**Be present:**

Try to put everything else out of your mind

Put away distractions

Be patient

**Be engaged:**

Listen to your child- verbal and nonverbal clues

Share your feelings and thoughts when appropriate

Trust your preparation

**Have fun!**

Go with the flow

### CONVERSATION-STARTERS

**General Questions:** Who is your favorite character? What did you like? What would you change?

**Family/Support System:** How is their family like yours? Who do you like talking to? How do you think that character feels? Do you ever feel like that?

**Race:** What color is that? What else could you name that color? What does that color remind you of? In what ways do you look like or not look like that character? Do you want to be friends with that character?

**Encourage Engagement:** "Why?" "I never thought of it like that." "Can you tell me more?"

### REFLECTION

What did you learn about your child?

What did you learn about yourself?

What surprised you?

What could have gone better?

What was the best part?

What question created the best conversation?

Did the time/length/environment work well?

What do you want to learn more about?

What do you want to talk to your child about more?