

FOREVER FAMILIES INSIDER

Committed to Connection. Focused on Family.

HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

We hope your family and pets are staying warm! See our sensory play of the month for a fun, at-home, indoor activity.

Take time to celebrate Black History this month. Here's some ways we recommend to stay warm and celebrate:

- Check out library books by an author of African-American heritage. Select books that affirm value in all children and answer any questions your child has in an honest and age appropriate response.
- Head to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History (located in Detroit, free admission on Sundays!)
- The Detroit Public Library is having multiple free scavenger hunt and craft nights for children ages 4 and up
 - <https://tockify.com/greatstartfun/detail/18117/1770044400000?tags=black-history>
- Ensure your child has diverse toys to play with. Dolls and characters that look like them and also ones that represent other cultures. Child need mirrors (things that look like them) and windows (things that look like others).

SENSORY PLAY OF THE MONTH

- Get messy with whipped cream (safe for dogs too!)
 - Perfect for busy, little hands. Whipped cream is great for children still putting their hands in their mouth. Warning: it is sticky and messy!
 - Practice writing letters or drawing shapes on the table through the cream
 - Show them what a heart shape looks like in honor of Valentines day or add a little red food coloring!

COMMUNITY RESOURCE OF THE MONTH: MARE ADOPTION NAVIGATORS

- MARE Adoption Navigators are adoptive parents who have gone through the process of adopting domestically, internationally, or from the foster care system.
- They can provide guidance and support from match to finalization.
- Their services are free of charge.
- They can:
 - Answer your questions
 - Explain the process
 - Connect you with local and educational resources and support groups
 - Share their lived experiences
 - Advocate for your family
 - Connect you with waiting children who may be a potential match
- If you want to learn more, reach out to your adoption worker or MARE!



DID YOU
KNOW?

The first transracial adoption
in the US occurred in 1948

WE ASKED ADOPTIVE PARENTS WHAT THEY THINK EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ADOPTION AND BEING AN ADOPTIVE PARENT. HERE'S WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY:

- "They're an adopted child but they are YOUR child. It's a miracle how it happens and how you immediately feel!"
- "Be prepared with a crib, car seat, a couple outfits, and a diaper bag. It can be difficult to be prepared and see that every day, especially if you have been through infertility. You can become impatient. But I still suggest being somewhat prepared."
- "You're just going to figure it out. You can get the cribs and this and that, but one night you are going to bed not a father and the next night you are going to bed as a father. It's like what they say about natural children, you can never be fully prepared."
- "Waiting is difficult. As much as you're happy for your friends that they have a placement, you're going to feel sad for yourself and wonder 'why they didn't pick us?'"
- "It can be difficult to go through the process, but it's good to be as informed as possible."
- "The more open, honest, and yourself you can be, the better. During the home study process, in your profile book, and when meeting the birth parent(s). You will be nervous, but be yourself."
- "Be proud. Proud of your kids and of your adoption journey. You'll get asked weird or hard questions. Use positive adoption language when it is brought up to make people aware."
- "You'll probably get discouraged. Be there for your significant other because they are going through the same emotions. You have community here (at Forever Families). You're not alone. Utilize those resources"
- "As hard as it can be sometimes to remember, the birth mother carrying the baby is a human person placing their baby so comfort and respect them to no end. She's a beautiful human being choosing to do this. She didn't have to choose adoption. It's not for me to understand the birth mother's choices. People come from all different backgrounds"
- "You'll match when you are meant to be matched. When it happens, it's going to be the right match for you and the child."
- "Don't hesitate to ask questions. And if you have any doubts, they go out the window the second you see that baby."
- "Travel. Go on those dates, because once the baby comes it's a lot harder."

FEELING GENEROUS?

Shop our Amazon Wish List or use QR Code:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlists/ls/REPLACE-LINK>

Venmo: @Forever-FamiliesInc

CashApp: #FFamilies

PayPal: paypal.me/ForeverFamiliesMI



Congratulations ★

Kristin Mathes

Our Employee of the Month!

She provided support to a new foster family struggling with a teenager with challenging behaviors. She also made herself available on Christmas Day while she was hosting her own family! Wow, that was above and beyond! We appreciate your dedication to your families!

GET CONNECTED

Give us a Like on Facebook and follow us on Instagram at @foreverfamiliesmi to stay connected on the most up to date information and learn fun facts!

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LOOK AT WHAT WE DID IN JANUARY!

Licensed Foster Homes Opened: 2
Adoptions Finalized: 1 (domestic)
Domestic Adoption Placements: 1

