

## **Spirit Play Story Lessons**

### **Families All Matter – Adoption**

#### **Materials:**

- Gold underlay
- Baby doll or image
- Grown up dolls or image
- Case worker doll or image

#### **Presentation:**

Hmmm... I wonder what this is?

*Spread out the gold underlay.*

Sometimes in our Spirit Play stories we use the color gold when talking about a great mystery. Today's story comes from the middle of a great mystery.

One day a little child was born.

*Bring out baby doll or image, cherishing and looking at the baby.*

Like all little children, this baby was a special gift to the world. This child had beautiful fingers and toes and a soft tickly belly. This child had their\* mother's dimples and their father's ears. When this child was born, people wondered about who this child might be and become.

In this story, the mother of our precious child was not sure if she could give her child everything that a child would need.

*Place two adult dolls or figures on the underlay with the baby, and a third doll or figure for a case worker. Have them interact.*

The mother felt sad and worried. She decided to talk to an adoption agency.

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\* gender-neutral singular pronoun

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She told the case worker, “I love my child more than words can describe, but I worry that we can’t give everything that our child needs to be healthy and well. Can you help us?” The case worker understood and said, “Let’s see what we can do.”

The mother carefully decided that the best thing was to place the child for adoption. It is a mystery why this happens; it is never so simple. And every time a child begins their journey separate from their parents, it is a sad and curious thing.

*Remove the parent figures. Put them behind your back or in the basket.*

It is a mysterious thing. What might happen to this child?

*Pause. Rock the baby and smile at them.*

Let’s cuddle our sweet child and hear some more of the story. Sometimes what happens in the middle of a mystery is really quite wonderful, complicated, and beautiful.

One day, two other grown-ups were sitting in the middle of the mystery.

*Place two parent dolls or figures (ambiguous gender) on the underlay.*

They were wondering about something very important. These two grown-ups were so full of love that they wanted to share their love with a child and create a family. They decided they wanted to adopt a child. They wondered, would they find a child to love? They dreamed about having a child’s laughter in their home. And if the child was sad, they dreamed of cuddling and helping the child feel better. What might happen to these grown-ups?

In this story, the grown-ups went to an adoption agency and told their story. “We are so full of love that we want to share our love with a child and create a family,” they said. “Can you help us?”

*Have the second pair of (adoptive) parents and case worker figures interact.*

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The case worker talked with them and learned more about them and started to wonder with them. She said, “I can see that you are really wanting to share and grow your love and start a family. Let’s see what we can do.”

Then something sad and wonderful and interesting happened. The child who couldn’t be with their parents was introduced to the grown-ups who wanted to make a family.

*Hold the adoptive parent and baby figures in your hands or lap, all together.*

They fell in love. And they made a new family together.

The child will always have their birth mother’s dimples and their birth father’s ears. And now, the child has a parent who makes their favorite breakfast and a parent who plays games with them. The grown-ups have now become parents and they have a child whom they love. Together they make their own special family.

Sometimes in this mystery, something that feels sad can also make space for something happy and good. In this mystery, the sad and the happy cuddle up with each other in our heart, making new kinds of love and new kinds of families possible.

#### **Wondering questions:**

**I wonder what was the best part of the story?**

**I wonder what was the most important part of this story?**

**I wonder what we could leave out of this story and still have all the story we need?**

**I wonder if you were someone or something in the story, who or what would you be?**