



Kids can have different kinds of families.

**They might live with their birth parents, grandparents,
or aunts and uncles.**



They might have foster families or adopted families.

All these families are real families.

All these families are important families.

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Families Change

A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights

Over time, all families change. Sometimes, when families have big problems, they need to change so kids will be safe.

A child's family might change from a birth family to a foster family or an adoptive family. That kind of change can be hard on kids. They may believe that the change is their fault. They may worry about their birth parents, and they may wonder if they can trust the new adults in their life.

This book can help children and families through this difficult change. The first part is meant to be read and shared with children. Simple words and realistic color illustrations tell and show why some kids get new foster parents or new adopted moms or dads. The second part includes information and resources for adults who work to keep kids safe: parents and other family adults, foster parents, social workers, teachers, and caregivers.

With the support of caring adults, children who experience termination of parental rights can move from the pain of the past to the promise of the future.

Julie Nelson is the senior teacher in Lifetrack Resources' Families Together program, a nonprofit preschool and early intervention program serving families in Ramsey County, Minnesota. She has taught in at-risk early childhood settings for most of her 30-year professional career. She is passionate about and committed to supporting society's most highly stressed children.

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