Cultural Awareness Adoption Questionnaire

There are very serious considerations that a prospective family needs to consider before entering a multicultural adoption. The Cradle’s role will be to foster discussion and raise the issues for careful reflection as well as provide counseling and education to support a successful adoption. Please answer the questions as completely as possible; however, we do understand that you may not have all the answers at this point in your adoption process. Race, color, or national origin will not be a consideration in The Cradle’s decision for approving you as an adoptive parent. These questions will be discussed further in meetings with your adoption counselor.

Please attach answers on separate sheets of paper.

1. From what racial/ethnic group(s) are you considering adopting?

2. Your child’s grade school will define much of his or her social interactions.
   (a) Schools are required by federal law to keep annual statistics on enrollment of children of various racial groupings. Check with your local grade school (public and/or private) and record the percentages of students of various racial groups. If annual statistics are available for the racial groupings of the teachers and administrative staff of your child’s school, please provide.
   (b) Why do you think this information might be important for you and your child?

3. Think of some of the social organizations your family is involved in (e.g. service organization, your place of worship, social club, park district activities)
   (a) How often do you attend (e.g. weekly, bimonthly, monthly)?
   (b) How many people of your anticipated child’s racial and or ethnic background are present on a regular basis at these events?

4. Do you have friends of different racial and ethnic groups than you?  
   Yes  No
   Have you shared your plans to become a multicultural family with your friends? If so, how have they responded?

5. Have you shared your plans to adopt cross-culturally with your extended family members?  Yes  No
   (a) If you have shared your plans with your family, how did they respond?
   (b) If you have not shared your plans with your family, when do you plan to do so?
   (c) If you did not receive a positive response from your family, how will this impact your plans to become a multicultural family?
6. If you are parenting other children, have you shared your plans to adopt cross-culturally with them? Yes No

   (a) If you have shared your plans with your children, how did they respond?

   (b) If you have not shared your plans with your children, when do you plan to do so?

   (c) How do you think having a brother or sister of another race or ethnicity in the family will affect them?

**Questions 7, 8, 9, and 10 are to be answered by each prospective adoptive parent.**

7. If you are already a conspicuous family, what additional challenges may you face by adopting cross-culturally?

8. What is your earliest memory of an interaction between yourself and a person with a different race/ethnicity than your own?

9. Have you ever been in a situation in which you were in the minority racially? If yes, please explain.

   (a) How were you treated?

   (b) How conspicuous did you feel?

   (c) How do you think you would prepare your child for a similar situation?

10. When were you in a situation where prejudice was expressed?

    (a) Did you respond, and if so, how?

    (b) How do you think you would prepare your child to respond in situations where (s)he experiences prejudice?

11. Children need to have information about and an understanding of their racial and cultural ancestry in order to develop cultural pride. They also need to know that their adoptive parents have an appreciation of ethnic diversity. Please describe your efforts to increase knowledge of your anticipated child’s heritage and history.

12. Please describe how you will explain to your child why you chose to adopt a child of his/her ethnic and/or racial heritage.
13. Children need to feel accepted by their own ethnic group and therefore need frequent opportunities to interact with children of their same race and culture.

(a) What area support groups are you aware of for families adopting from your anticipated child’s racial and/or ethnic background

(b) Other than support groups, describe what efforts you will make to provide opportunities to provide such interactions.

14. Children need to have adult role models to offer them positive cultural images. Role models can be teachers, doctors, neighbors, clergy, family friends or others of your child’s same culture. Please list ways you will provide these positive role models.

15. No matter how diligently you may try, you cannot know and experience what it is like to be of a different culture or ethnicity. Many parents have found it to be extremely helpful to develop a trusting relationship with a “Cultural Consultant”. The “Cultural Consultant” is an individual of the same ethnicity of your child. He or she may or may not have a relationship with your child.

(a) Have you identified a “Cultural Consultant” as yet?

(b) If this person can provide a reference for your adoption, please provide name and address.