PREPARATION FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN OLDER CHILD
18 months and older at time of referral

The Cradle has a strong commitment to finding permanent homes for children who are two and older at the time of placement. The adoption of an older child or sibling pair can be deeply rewarding. Older child placements also present unique issues and challenges. The cradle believes that pre-adoption education and planning are essential in helping families understand the realities of older child adoption and to the ultimate success of the adoption. The following is a list of tasks intended to assist adoptive parents in deciding if adopting an older child is right for their family. In preparation for adopting an older child, ____________________________ have/has completed the following steps:

☐ Adoption Learning Partners On-line Training Classes:
  o Medical Issues in International Adoption (required for all international families 2.5 credit hours)
  o Tough Start Kids Series (5 credits)
  o Adopting the Older Child (with particular focus on the international scenarios-2 credit hours)
  o The Journey of Attachment (required for all international families 2-credit hours)

☐ Read Older Child Adoption packet of articles

☐ Speak with families who have adopted older children

☐ Service Providers Worksheet

☐ Childcare/Educational Plan Worksheet

☐ Family Support Plan Worksheet

☐ Join an adoptive parent support group

☐ Recommended reading:
  o Becoming a Family by Lark Eschelman (for all ages)
  o Toddler Adoption: The Weaver’s Craft by Mary Best Hopkins (ages 0-4 years)
  o Parenting our Older Adopted Child by Brenda McCreight (ages 4 and older)
    or
  o Our Own: Adopting and Parenting the Older Child by Trish Maskew (ages 4 and older)

☐ Recommend the following workshops

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

I/We affirm that I/we have completed the above preparation for the adoption of an older child.

_____________________________________        _________
Client Signature                          Date

_____________________________________        _________
Client Signature                          Date

_____________________________________        _________
Worker Signature                          Date