





Mary Therese and Johnny



Mary Therese and Johnny are a four-year-old brother and six-year-old sister who have been in the Greywolf foster home for 14 months. They have grown close to their foster family, especially Johnny to Mrs. Greywolf. The children's mother, Mary, has been in an intensive residential alcohol treatment program in another town. Though she would call when she could, there were not many opportunities for visits. Mrs. Greywolf has tried to keep the children close to their grandparents during that time, allowing them to go with them to see Native dancers and for Mary Therese's grandmother to begin to teach her how to bead. Mary has done well in her treatment and is now in a supported program that is helping her look for housing for herself and her children. Visits have begun again and the plan is for a trial reunification once the mother is settled into her new housing. Johnny is shy and somewhat hesitant around his mother. He doesn't remember her very well and has a hard time letting go of Mrs. Greywolf's hand when she takes him for the visit. Mary Therese is always thrilled to see her mother and is excited about showing her beadwork. But Johnny has started having bad dreams at night and has become very clingy.

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- *What are the important issues for these two children?*
 - *What do Mary Therese and Johnny need from their foster parents and their birth parents in order to have a smooth transition home?*
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Emma and Leah

Five-year old Emma and eight-year-old Leah have been in the Tyson foster home for almost two years. Their mother has been in and out of drug and mental health treatment programs and has again relapsed. She is also eight months pregnant and living on the streets and has not visited the girls for over three months. The plan for the girls has changed to adoption and the birth mother has agreed to voluntarily relinquish her parental rights. The Tyson foster home has agreed to adopt the children who have thrived in their home. Emma is already calling Mrs. Tyson mom and seems to be agreeable to "getting adopted." Leah, however, has starting throwing temper tantrums and yelling, "You're not my mom" ever since she found out that the plan turned to adoption. She keeps asking when she can see "my real mom" and help her take care of the new baby.

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- *What are the important issues for both the girls?*
 - *How can we help Emma and Leah make this transition from foster children to “forever” children?*
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Tommy

Tommy is an eight year old boy who is about to be placed for adoption, He came into care at age two, due to his young mother's substance abuse and erratic lifestyle. Tommy lived in several other foster homes until he was placed with Shirley and Bill Lawson, a couple in their mid-60's. The Lawson's children are grown and all live nearby. The Lawson's have worked hard with Tommy and he is currently age appropriate and doing very well in school. He is very attached to "Grandma and Grandpa" and enjoys playing with all of their grandchildren who visit frequently.

Cheryl and Ray Henderson are the adoptive family which has been selected for Tommy. They have no other children and have been looking forward to adopting for the past several years.

The Hendersons have been visiting with Tommy for the past two months and have had two weekend visits. They are looking forward to placement of their new son.

The Lawsons are very attached to Tommy but are unable to commit to adopt him because of their advanced age and Mr. Lawson's health issues. Tommy is also very attached to all of Lawson family and does not understand why he has to move. He thinks the Henderson's are very nice, but he doesn't understand why he has to be adopted. The Lawson family is the only family he has ever really known.

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- What are the important issues for Tommy?
 - What does Tommy need from his foster parents and his adoptive parents to make a good move into his new home?