

An interview with ...

What is adoption?

Adoption is something that happens when you can't live with your birthparents anymore. Instead, you become "eligible for adoption." This means that you are waiting for a new family.

It might take a long time before the family that's right for you comes along. But it can be worth the long wait. Once a family says they want to adopt you, they must talk with some Very Important People and explain why they would be good parents.

You'll meet with the family several times — and maybe live with them for a while — to see if you like spending time with them. Finally, you'll go to a place called "court" with your new family. A judge will ask some questions and then say that you're adopted.

When you're adopted, that means you are part of your new family forever. They'll always be there for you, just like you'll always be in their lives.



www.robbietherabbit.com

Why am I going to be adopted?

Sometimes, when people have children, they aren't able to take care of them very well or give them a safe home. When this happens, you must move to another home — a safe one — where you will be safe and can get the love and attention that you deserve.

Will I see my birthparents again?

It depends on what the court decides. A lot of Very Important People *really* care about you. They want you to be a safe and happy kid. Sometimes, that means you won't see your birthparents after you're adopted.

That's what happened to me — I can't see my birthmom anymore. But I know she loves me and thinks my new parents (the Thompsons) will take good care of me.

Will I like being adopted?

Well, I can't answer that for you. But I can tell you that I *really* love my new parents a lot.

Some things aren't the same as when I lived with my mom. But some things are a lot better.

My new mom is really nice. At first, she didn't know what I liked to eat, but I told her. Now she makes my favorites all the time. We do fun things as a family, and someone always tucks me in at night.

My parents don't look the same as me, but that's OK. Sometimes parents look different than their kids. What's important is whether they give you a safe home and a lot of love and attention.

Even though I miss my birthmom sometimes, I'm glad I was adopted. I'm happy that I don't have to be in foster care anymore. The best part is that my new mom and dad love me a lot. And I love them, too!

...Robbie Rabbit™

Very Important People



My **caseworker**, Sammy, visits me a lot. She makes sure I'm doing OK at school and home. She explains things to me — like how my birthmom is doing and where I'm going to live. She even takes me to doctor visits sometimes!

This is my **therapist**, Mrs. Donley. (Some people might call her a counselor.) She helps me figure out what I'm feeling and why I feel the way I do.



Sometimes we play games. We talk a lot. She understands me and listens to what I'm saying.



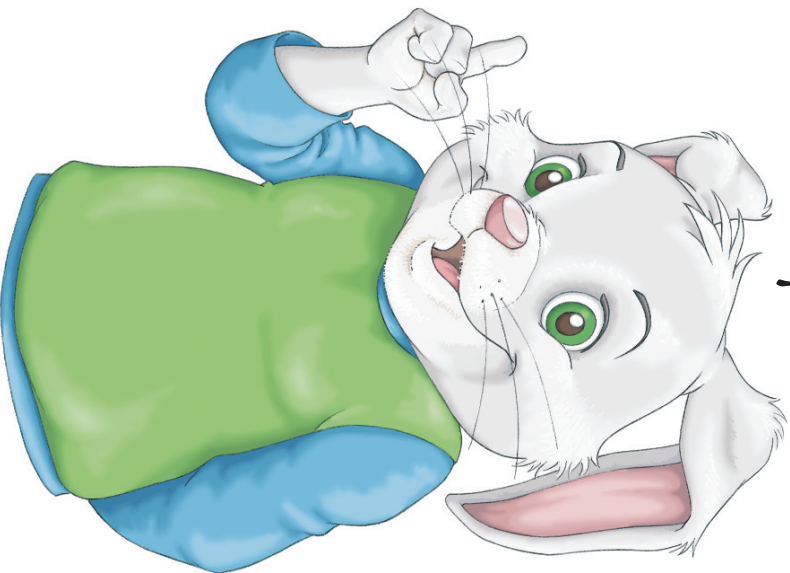
My **guardian ad litem**, Tonya, is an attorney for kids like me. She makes sure the judge knows I'm safe. She suggests things to the judge that she thinks will help me. For example, she might tell the judge that I need more time with my therapist or that the Thompsons should adopt me.

I don't have a **CASA** volunteer, but my friend Tommy does. A **CASA** is a court-appointed special advocate. CASAs are like guardians ad litem (but they aren't attorneys). Tommy's **CASA** spends time getting to know him so she can tell the judge what she thinks is best for Tommy.



The **judge** works in a courtroom. My judge listened carefully to my Very Important People before deciding what would happen with my family.

Good question.



Let's ask Robbie!

Talking with a child about adoption?

You may be interested in **ROBBIE'S TRAIL THROUGH ADOPTION**, part of the **Robbie Rabbit™** series — an educational, dialogue-opening series for kids in out-of-home care.



ROBBIE'S TRAIL THROUGH ADOPTION is a compelling story with related activities conveniently located in the back of the book. The adult guide is a requisite companion piece with instructions, talking points, tips and answers (when applicable).

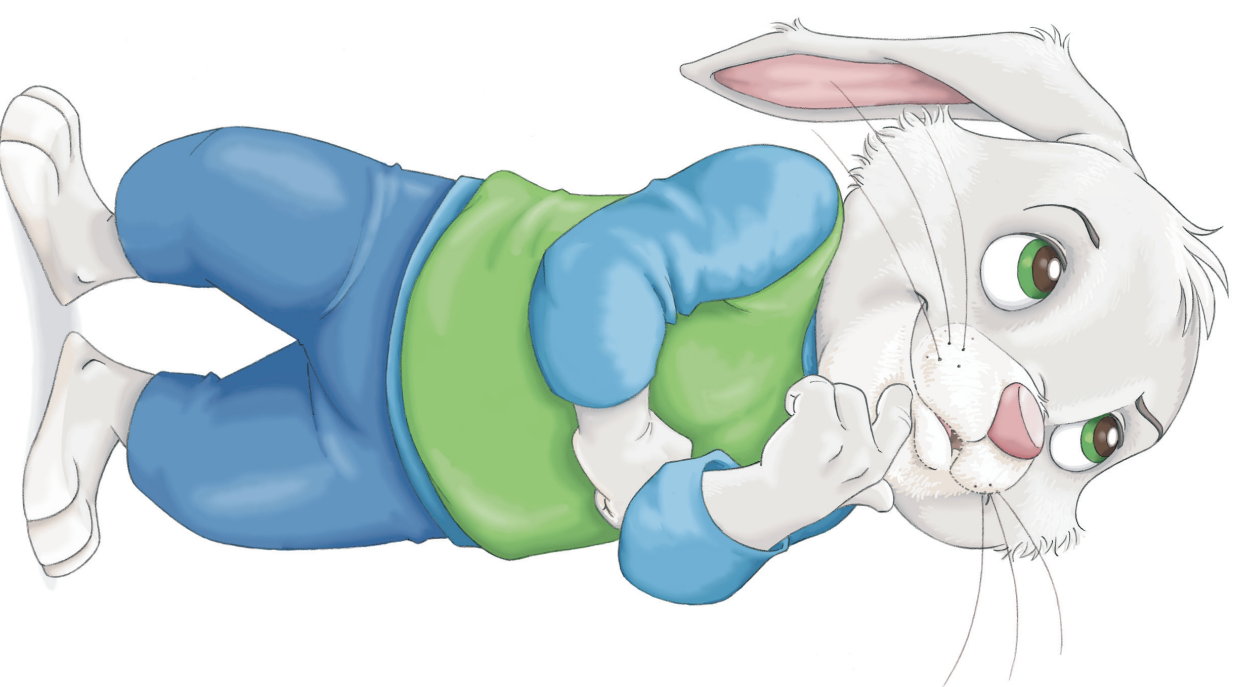
To learn more about these publications, go to www.robbietherabbit.com.

About the **Robbie Rabbit™** series

The **Robbie Rabbit™** stories and their supplemental materials are designed specifically for adoptive parents, foster parents and/or case-workers who want to:

- Help a foster child and/or an adoption-eligible child adjust better to tough changes in life
- Promote communication between the child and the important people in his life
- Gain insight into a child's feelings and interpretation of the world around him

What is Adoption?



www.robbietherabbit.com

© Robe Communications, Inc., 2008

0608