

Adoption support and preservation services

Stay connected

ASAP

At the core of the START approach is the Illinois Adoption/Guardianship Support and Preservation (ASAP) program.

All adoptive families, including domestic private, intercountry and adoptions from foster care, and subsidized guardianship families can receive free and accessible adoption-informed services from the Illinois Adoption Support and Preservation programs.

ASAP providers are in a network that covers Illinois. They are assigned by region so that families can receive localized attention and care.

The ASAP agencies can also connect families to other resources that ASAP agencies and DCFS offer, such as:

- Therapy.
- Respite.
- Support groups.
- Educational support.
- Family connections.
- Resources for legal issues.

SERVICES

DCFS offers a wide range of services, information and resources for families after adoption or guardianship. They are under the umbrella “PATH Beyond Adoption,” where PATH stands for Partners Available to Help.

START your family off smart. Access services or learn more about adoption or guardianship related issues or concerns through the PATH Beyond Adoption phone support line or website.



PATH Beyond Adoption

*Partners Available To Help
after adoption and guardianship*



PathBeyondAdoption.illinois.gov
866.538.8892 TOLL-FREE

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YOUR SMART START for a stronger family after adoption or guardianship



Start Early!
Trauma-Informed
Attachment-Focused
Resiliency-Building
Therapeutic Services



PATH Beyond Adoption



Help when and before you need it

Families formed by adoption or guardianship are like any family, but at the same time there are unique differences.

As your children get older, your family dynamics change, or “life” just happens. What was smooth can suddenly become a struggle.

Lexi



Lexi's teachers said she focused on everything but the work. Her parents quickly connected to a therapist who helped get to the root of what was actually bothering her. Lexi learned new ways to block out distracting thoughts so she could do better at school (and at home).

It is normal to have questions or to need help. Too often parents and guardians look back on a rough patch and realize they did not know what they needed and had no idea that services were available.

The START approach is a smarter way to provide services, head-off potential problems and encourage positive outcomes. Families – from day one to years down the road – can stay connected to resources available through DCFS and a network of trained professionals.

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The START approach



Start early

Prevention and early intervention are the keys to building strong families after an adoption. You don't have to wait to ask for help.

Trauma-informed

Providers are trained in how trauma can affect a child and the family in all arenas. There are also predictable times when previous trauma can come out in behaviors that can be difficult to manage.

Attachment-focused

Services and activities are developed to build (and rebuild) strong ties and a foundation for life-long connections and positive outcomes.

Resiliency-building

Families learn how to work through challenges together and communicate better, guided by proven interventions.

Therapeutic services

Trained mental health professionals have a full array of proven interventions to meet a family's individual needs.

Benefits to the START approach for families



The START approach to serving families formed through adoption and guardianship is first preventative. You don't have to wait and you shouldn't. The service providers understand how trauma can impact the child and family.

All of these resources are geared toward bringing families together and making them stronger. Therapeutic services specific to adoptive and guardianship families can help with small, short-term issues through more serious concerns.

START offers:

- Customizable and flexible services to address your family's specific needs.
- Interactive and meaningful activities with children and their caregivers.
- Family-focused delivery in the home, in the provider's office or at community locations.
- Links to experienced clinicians trained in the most effective techniques for working with the toughest situations.
- A strong support system early, that the family can come back to when needed.

With the START approach, families can thrive, not simply survive, when issues arise that are related to or complicated by an adoption or guardianship.