



Adoptive Parent Training Phase 3

Holt International has placed children with loving, adoptive families in the United States for over 65 years. In that time, we have learned a lot about the relationship between adoptive parents and their children. Adoptive parents are best prepared to meet the complex needs of adopted children when they are provided with extensive, ongoing, supportive training and preparation and lifelong support. At Holt, training occurs in three phases throughout the adoption process, and families are informed of these requirements at the time of application. Detailed information about the three phases can be found in the [online handbook](#).

The information below details Phase 3 of the parent training, which focuses on the *life-long journey* of adoption.

Adoption Directors and the Family Preparation Workbook

- **6-12 months before travel:** When your anticipated travel date is approximately 6-12 months away, you will begin working with the Adoption Director who assisted you in the matching process. Adoption Directors are experienced clinical social workers with extensive backgrounds in adoption. From that point forward, you will meet with your Adoption Director at least once a month for ongoing education and preparation. Together, you will work through the Family Preparation Workbook, an interactive and evolving tool designed to guide your family's preparation.
- **Purpose of preparation:** This intentional and thorough process helps identify the potential needs of your child based on their individual life experiences before adoption. It also highlights your family's unique strengths, identifies resources and services you may need, and develops strategies to support the well-being of each family member. Overall, this preparation gives you, as prospective adoptive parents, the opportunity to clarify what it will mean—for you and any resident children—to welcome a specific child into your family.
- **Support while in-country:** Your Adoption Director will remain available to you while you are in-country with your child, if challenges arise. You will be able to reach them directly through WhatsApp. Crisis management should be handled by in-country staff.
- **Ongoing support after adoption:** Once you return home, your local social worker will complete the required post-placement reports. At the same time, your Adoption Director will continue to be a supportive resource for the life of your adoption. Reaching out for help is a sign of strength. Please contact your Adoption Director with any concerns, needs, or strong feelings. *Addressing concerns early helps ensure the best possible outcome for your child and your family.*

To access articles on specific adoption-related topics, go to Holt's [Adoptive Parent Resource Center](#) for tips on nutrition, developmental stages, positive parenting, and more!