Challenges in International Transracial Adoptions

• Domestic transracial adoption
  Child is of a different race
  Child is of different domestic cultural group

• International adoption
  • Child speaks different language
  • Child is of different culture
  • Child is immigrant (parents are not)
  • Child may have health/developmental complications

• International transracial adoption
  • Above differences
  • Child is of different race
Complexities of International Transracial Adoptions

Childrearing (normative biological families) plus
Normative adoption issues plus
Post-institutionalization issues plus
Cross-cultural adoption issues plus
Transracial adoption issues

Adoptive parents must consider these additional challenges

Relevance for identity development in adolescence
E-RS Facets and Complexities

E-RS Types
- Cult. Socializ.
- Prep for Bias
- Promote Mistrust
- Egalitarianism

Parent role
- Approach to difference
- Beliefs/attitudes
- Ethnic racial identity
- Comfort level
- Confidence level
- Proactive/reactive
- Role in discussions

Contextual Considerations
- Micro: Family/Peer/School
- Meso: PT, Birth Culture
- Exo: Ext family, Community, Adoption Supports
- Macro: Nat’l, Int’l issues
- Chrono: Hist. changes

Child Engagement in Activities, Discussions
- Frequency
- Purpose
- Interest
- Understanding

Dev. Considerations
- When, what to share
- When let child lead

Modality, etc.
- Modality
- Level of involvement
- Structure
- Location

E. Pinderhughes, Rudd Conf, 2012
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**Child Engagement in Activities, Discussions**
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**Child/Teen Functioning**

E. Pinderhughes, Rudd Conf., 2012
Parent's attitudes, comfort level with promoting ethnic identity

Less positive/accepting/comfortable

more positive/accepting/comfortable

Child's level of functioning

low

high

Parent not so positive
Child low functioning

Parent quite positive
Child fairly high functioning

Parent not so positive
Child high functioning

Parent uncertain
Child somewhat low functioning

Parent quite positive
Child low functioning

Parent’s attitudes, comfort level with promoting ethnic identity

Less positive/accepting/comfortable

more positive/accepting/comfortable
Summary

Challenges for transracial adoptive families raising children with early deprivation/trauma

• Parent role
  – Own work regarding culture, race differences
  – Supports for this work often helpful

• Child role/needs
  – Developmentally appropriate discussions of E-RS
  – Consider support/socialization group specific for these needs