

DCFS Adoption Competencies
Based on Competencies Developed by the Institute for Human Services
And Adopted/Modified by the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services

201 Adoption & Foster Care

- 201-1 The specialist knows the individual and family characteristics and dynamics that contribute to effective resource and adoptive parenting.
- 201-2 The specialist can conduct thorough joint home-study assessments with foster and adoptive family applicants. This includes engaging the family in the home study process, gathering pertinent family assessment information; drawing accurate conclusions; involving the family in self-assessment; educating the family regarding out-of-home, and documenting information in a written report.
- 201-3 The specialist understands the value of pre-service and ongoing in-service training for resource and adoptive families.
- 201-4 The specialist can assess the needs of children requiring foster or adoptive placement and can select the most appropriate, least restrictive, most homelike, relevant placement setting to meet the child's developmental and treatment needs.
- 201-5 The specialist can develop collaborative relationships with resource and adoptive families and can promote joint planning and delivery of services for children in care.
- 201-6 The specialist understands court procedure and the decision-making process, can compile and document information to support a court filing or permanent custody action, and can collaborate with the legal representative to implement a permanent custody action.
- 201-7 The specialist knows the importance of post-placement supportive and treatment services and knows strategies to ensure that these services are provided to children and their adoptive and resource families.
- 201-8 The specialist can prepare children for adoption, including use of life books, stories, play, and other methods to communicate with the child, to reduce placement-induced stress and to maintain identity and continuity for the child
- 201-9 The specialist knows strategies to identify, engage, and assess prospective adoptive and resource families within their background context.
- 201-10 The specialist knows the indicators of abuse and neglect in out-of-home care and can provide appropriate intervention and referral.