

Super Moms and Super Dads!

Recognizing the Extraordinary Needs of Single Parents and Engaging Them in Early Childhood Programs

Our presenter



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Today's objectives

Identify

Identify the four most common reasons that people become single parents.

Learn

Learn strategies to support single parents in your early childhood program.



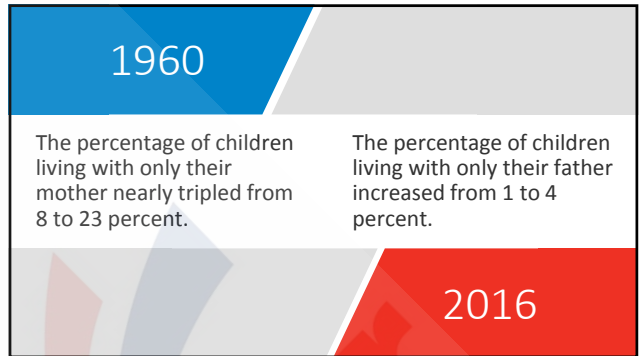
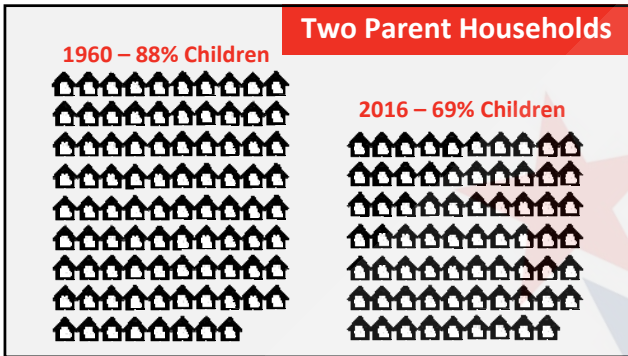
Single-parent families can be defined as families where a parent lives with dependent children, either alone or in a larger household, without a spouse or partner.

American children under age 18:

- 69% live in families with two parents.
- 23% live in a household with a single mother.
- 8% have other living arrangements.



Census Bureau's
America's Families and Living Arrangements



Step Parenting Statistics

- 1300 new stepfamilies are forming every day.
- Over 50% of US families are remarried or re-coupled.
- The average marriage in America lasts only seven years.
- One out of two marriages ends in divorce.
- 75% remarry
- 66% of those living together or remarried break up, when children are involved.

Reasons for Single Parenting

- Divorce
- Death of a Parent
- Unintended Pregnancy
- Single Parent Adoption

Death of a Parent

Historically the main reason for single parenting was the death of a partner.

Divorce

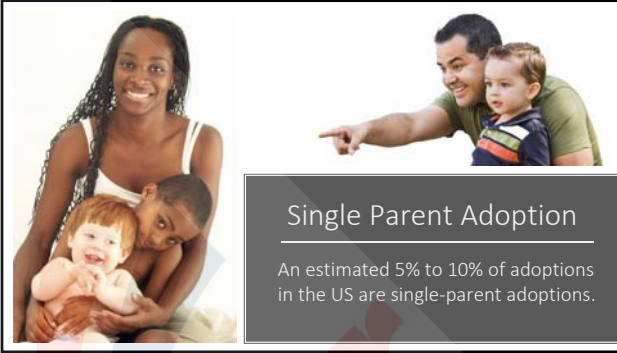
Statistics over the past 10 years show first marriages have a 40% chance of ending in divorce.

“Parallel parenting” vs. “Cooperative parenting”

Unintended Pregnancy

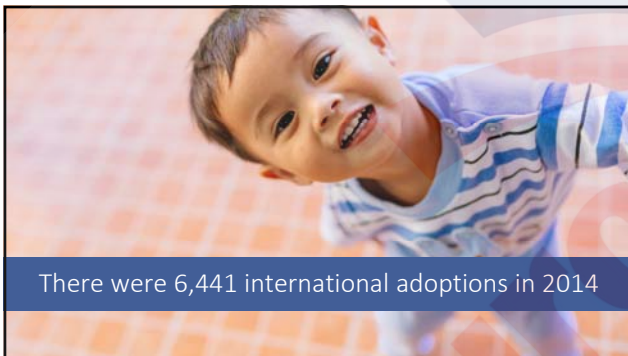
Out-of-Wedlock pregnancy is accepted.

But not everyone wants the responsibility...



Single Parent Adoption

An estimated 5% to 10% of adoptions in the US are single-parent adoptions.

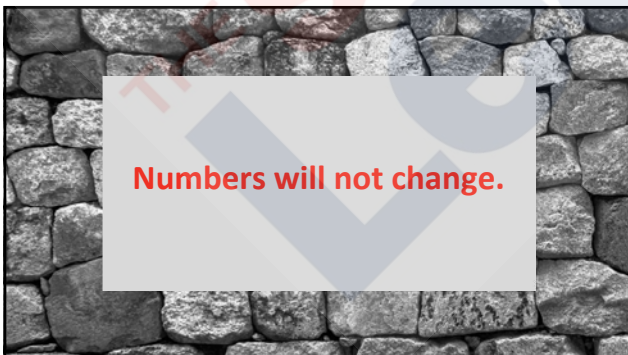


There were 6,441 international adoptions in 2014

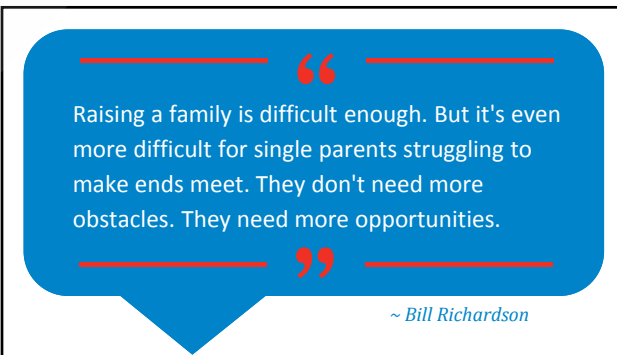


Single Parent International Adoption

There are requirements in each country.
<http://childrenofallnations.com/adoption-programs/singles-adoption/>

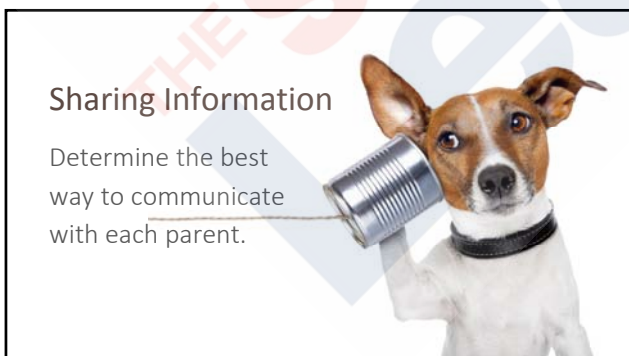
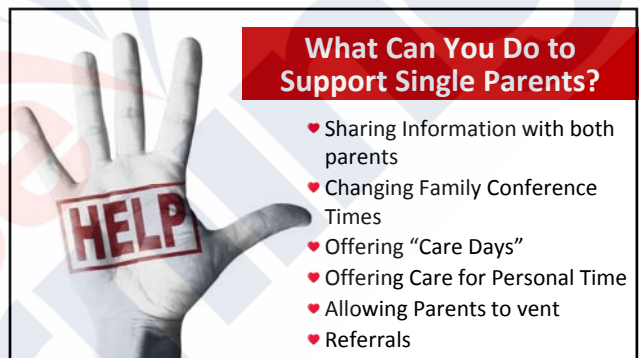


Numbers will not change.



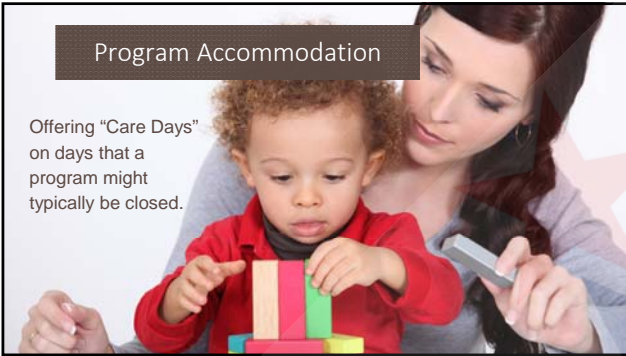
“Raising a family is difficult enough. But it's even more difficult for single parents struggling to make ends meet. They don't need more obstacles. They need more opportunities.”

~ Bill Richardson



Program Accommodation

Offering "Care Days" on days that a program might typically be closed.

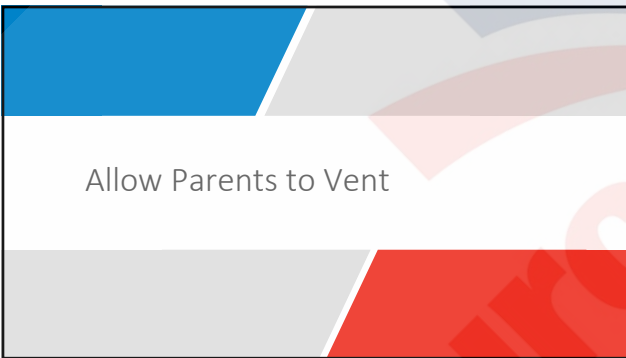


Personal Time

What can we do?



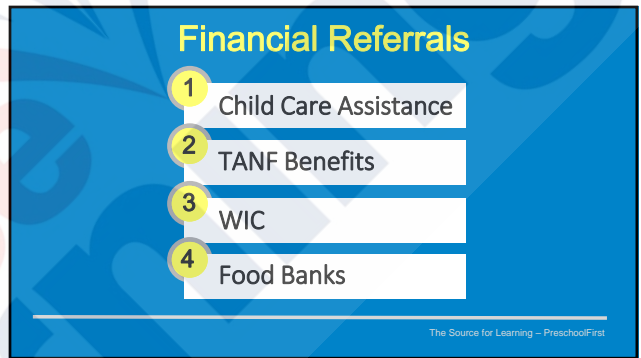
Allow Parents to Vent



Financial Referrals

- 1 Child Care Assistance
- 2 TANF Benefits
- 3 WIC
- 4 Food Banks

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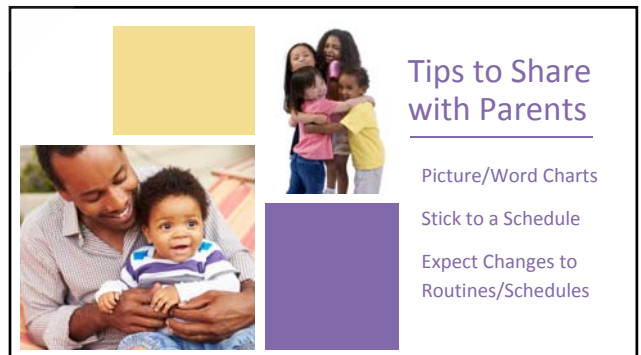
Parenting Resources

- Parents Without Partners
- Mother's Day Out
- Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)
- Mommy and Me/Daddy and Me
- 2-1-1 (available in many states)



Tips to Share with Parents

- Picture/Word Charts
- Stick to a Schedule
- Expect Changes to Routines/Schedules





Resources

- 1 **Encyclopedia.com: Single-parent Families,**
<http://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences-and-law/sociology-and-social-reform/sociology-general-terms-and-concepts/single>
- 2 **United States Census Bureau: The Majority of Children Live With Two Parents, Census Bureau Reports,**
<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2016/cb16-192.html>
- 3 **Broken Promises: Help for Struggling Single Parent Families,**
<https://broken-promises.org/blog/2014/12/28/cause-of-single-parenting/>
- 4 **Wise Old Sayings,**
<http://www.wiseoldsayings.com/single-moms-quotes/>

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