

# More Than Just Words

*A More Complete Look  
at How To Communicate  
Effectively with Your Child*

October 2010



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## The Typical Approach

Generally, adoptive and foster parents focus on one of two things

- How to tell certain information
- What questions their child will ask and how they (as parents) should respond



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## A Different Approach

As parents, we need to focus on communicating to connect. How we approach communicating with our kids about adoption and foster care needs to be about so much more than just words.



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## We Communicate Even When We're Not Talking

Ways that we communicate with our children about adoption and foster care

- Nonverbal communication
- Motivations and expectations
- Starting the conversation
- What we don't say says a lot
- How we say what we say
- Attitudes and perspectives
- Giving our children voice



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## Nonverbal communication



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## Motivations and expectations



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Starting the conversation



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What we don't say says a lot



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How we say what we say



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## Attitudes and perspectives



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## Giving our children voice



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## Where do we go from here?

- Resolve to communicate
  - Openly
  - Honestly and accurately
  - Holistically, focused primarily on your child
  - Focused on meaning and purpose, not just the facts
  - In a way that attempts to honor all that God is doing in the story that He is writing with your lives



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