

By Christine Mitchell, author and illustrator



Inspiration for Welcome Home, Forever Child – While we were preparing for my daughter's adoption finalization, I searched for a special and meaningful book that truly celebrated older child adoption. When I didn't find what I hoped for, I decided to write one myself. Because children adopted past infancy do have additional worries, I wanted to try to address some of them and help reassure children that they are safe, loved, and a permanent part of their new family.

As many adoption books do, *Welcome Home, Forever Child* expresses the longing of parents for a child, and their joy at bringing the child home. In older child adoptions, especially, we cannot ignore our child's past. The book acknowledges that the new parents missed the child's early milestones, like baby teeth coming in, and learning to crawl. This provides an opportunity for the child, if they wish, to express their sadness that they were not born into the family. While acknowledging this loss, the family looks forward to sharing many 'firsts' together, and building a lifetime of memories together. They imagine sharing activities together like reading bedtime stories, playing 'hide-and-seek', and building sand castles.



As the family anticipates sharing experiences and milestones, the book conveys the message that whether the child is learning a new skill, or marking a new milestone...the parents will be there. They will always be a family. This is such an important message for children who have experienced multiple placements. It's hard for them to believe they won't have to move again, and my goal was to offer a tool to help reassure children of their permanent place in their 'forever family'. The parents in *Welcome Home, Forever Child* also promise to comfort and nurture their child, especially when she is scared, sick, or injured. My daughter likes to stop at this point and scold me if I didn't kiss her latest boo-boo.

The intention of my book is to help parents reaffirm how proud they are of their child, how much they love for him or her, and how committed they are to their child. My hope is that parents and children will enjoy the book together, and that it is useful in promoting attachment. Parents have reported that it is especially comforting at bedtime, which is often a time of increased anxiety for children. Regina M. Kupecky, LSW recently shared with me that she is using the book in her therapy practice, and that children and parents love it. I am thrilled that the book has been well received by adoption and parenting experts:

- "A great way to help young children to understand what adoption and forever means in their lives..." – **Regina M. Kupecky, LSW, Co-author with Gregory C. Keck, P.H.D., *Adopting the Hurt Child and Parenting the Hurt Child***
- "...This book will be useful in helping children bond to adoptive parents." – **Foster W. Cline, M.D, Co-author with Jim Fay, *Parenting with Love and Logic***
- "This book provides reassurance to children and parents that a lifetime of important memories can be created regardless of the age at which a child joins his or her forever family. The rhymes and delightful illustrations will appeal to children from toddler age through middle childhood." – **Mary Hopkins-Best, *Toddler Adoption: The Weaver's Craft***

Your Complete Resource for Adoption Books
www.TapestryBooks.com® Toll Free 877-266-5406
TAPESTRY BOOKS©