

A Transracially-Adopted Child's Bill of Rights

Excerpt from the book, "Inside Transracial Adoption"*

Strength-based, culture- sensitizing parenting strategies for inter-country or domestic adoptive parents that don't "match" by Gail Steinberg and Beth Hall

Below list by Bill Liza Steinberg Triggs (Pact Press, Fall 1996)

- Every child is entitled to love and full membership in her family.
- Every child is entitled to have his culture embraced and valued.
- Every child is entitled to parents who know that this is a race-conscious society.
- Every child is entitled to parents who know that she will experience life differently than they do.
- Every child is entitled to parents who are not adopted to "save" him or to improve the world.
- Every child is entitled to parents who know that being a family doesn't depend on "matching."
- Every child is entitled to parents who know that transracial adoption changes the family forever.
- Every child is entitled to be accepted by extended family members.
- Every child is entitled to parents who know that if they are white, they benefit from racism.
- Every child is entitled to parents who know that they can't transmit the child's birth culture if it is not their own.
- Every child is entitled to have items in his home that are made for and by people of his culture.
- Every child is entitled to opportunities to make friends with people of her race or ethnicity.
- Every child is entitled to daily opportunities to have positive experiences with his birth cultures.
- Every child is entitled to build racial pride within her own home, family, school, and neighborhood.
- Every child is entitled to have constant opportunities to connect with adults of the child's race.
- Every child is entitled to learn survival, problem solving, and coping skills in a context of racial pride.
- Every child is entitled to parents who accept, understand and empathize with her race and culture.
- Every child is entitled to take pride in the development of a dual identity and the multicultural/ multiracial perspective on life.
- Every child is entitled to find his multiculturalism to be an asset and to conclude, "I've got the best of both worlds."

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