

There are abbreviated materials - "Information Packets" - that are included in this list. This list represents only materials primarily on this topic. However, there are other materials that speak to this topic available in the library (i.e., brief "Articles," etc.). Contact ORPARC for additional materials.

Lifestory Books

Material Title: **Complete Lifebook Workbook, The**
 Author: Jim Mooney, MSW *Books* 1996 52 pages

This book serves as an example of one way a lifestory book might be organized. Many of the pages are in fill-in-the-blanks format. There are pages to be filled in about birth family, foster families, and adoptive family; about birthdays, school memories, etc. There is also information to normalize many of the reasons that children might be adopted. Purchasing information is on the inside cover for those who would like to buy this book to fill in the blanks.

Material Title: **Filling in the Blanks* (Children's Materials)**
 Author: Susan Gabel *Children's Books* 1980 149 pages

This lifebook/workbook is a tool for older children and adolescents to help them learn about being adopted. It is divided into four sections: My Birth Family, My Adoption Process, My Adoptive Family, and Myself.

Material Title: **For When I'm Famous: A Teen Foster/Adopt Lifebook**
 Author: Beth O'Malley *Books* 2006 31 pages

For When I'm Famous begins with a letter to the teen addressing the fact that they might not understand the importance of completing a lifebook, but that it could be worth money one day! Author, Beth O'Malley, an adoptee and an adoptive parent, adds a spot at the end of the letter for the teen's autograph and then lists several famous adoptees. The lifebook may not mean much now, but in a few years it may be invaluable in helping the child have a deeper understanding of his/her life. This book offers a very easy way for a teenaged foster child to complete a first lifebook. Many times the older children in care are reluctant to create a lifebook. For When I'm Famous may help the project to become more fun and manageable for the older foster child.

Material Title: **Foster Care and Adoption: A Pathway to Understanding* (Children's Materials)**
 Author: Heather Wilson *Children's Books* 2006 64 pages

This is a unique interactive, illustrative and educational book created to help children de-mystify the process and their feelings as they move into foster care and adoption. It is an engaging tool to help children understand the people and steps involved in their transition to permanency. Ideally, the book is used by a clinician or caseworker in therapy with a child.

Material Title: **I Don't Understand Why: A Search for Meaning (DVD)**
 Author: Illinois State University *DVDs* 2005 12 minutes

This documentary shows interviews with Jimmy, an adopted child with behavior difficulties, at age 8 and later, in his twenty's when he has two kids of his own. He talks about the importance to him of his lifebook, which includes school reports and a letter from his birth mother, in helping him understand his past and form a positive sense of identity.

Material Title: **Life Story Books for Adopted Children: A Family Friendly Approach**
 Author: Joy Rees *Books* 2009 88 pages

This book shows a new, family-friendly way to compile a "Life Storybook" that promotes a sense of permanency for the child, and encourages attachments within the adoptive family. Clear and concise, it contains simple explanations of complex concepts, practical examples and helpful suggestions, aiming to reinforce the child's sense of belonging and security within the adoptive family.

Material Title: **Life Story Therapy with Traumatized Children**
 Author: Richard Rose *Books* 2012 175 pages

Life story therapy is an approach designed to enable children to explore, question and understand the past events of their lives. It aims to secure their future through strengthening attachment with their carers and providing the opportunity to develop a healthy sense of self and feeling of wellbeing. This comprehensive overview lays out the theory underlying life story therapy, including an accessible explanation of contemporary research in neurobiology and trauma.

Material Title: **Lifebooks and Family Trees: Tools to Help Children Understand Their Stories (CD)**
 Author: NACAC Conference 2006 CD *CDs* 2006 90 minutes

A lifebook is a hands-on tool for talking about foster care or adoption and commemorates the child's journey to the current family. Losses and joys, accomplishments and loved ones dance across its pages. Adoption-friendly family trees equip the child for typical school projects. This interactive workshop examines why, how, and when to assemble a lifebook in a way that helps the child to understand and discuss adoption or foster care.

Lifestory Books

Material Title: **Lifebooks: Creating a Treasure for the Adopted Child**
Author: Beth O'Malley *Books* 2014 92 pages

This book, expanded from her 2000 issue, presents information on what lifebooks are, why they are so important, and how to proceed with them from just about any standpoint. O'Malley includes a 58 page chapter on the "Essentials." It is all written in a touching, personal manner by someone who spent her first five months in foster care before becoming adopted and eventually started a career as an adoption worker.

Material Title: **Lifestory Books**
Author: ORPARC Staff *Information Packets* 2015 45 pages

This newly revised information packet is a thoughtful and thorough compilation of Lifestory Book material, designed to inspire both parents and professionals. The contents include articles, helpful tools, and resources.

Material Title: **Putting the Pieces Together: Lifebook Work with Children (DVD)**
Author: Lutheran Social Services of Illinois *DVDs* 2007 64 minutes

This DVD provides the what, when, how, who and why of building lifebooks. Through interviews with adoptees, adoptive parents, and professionals, it demonstrates what lifebooks are, what they are not, and what they should include; when and how to get started; who should contribute; and most importantly; why they are so indispensable in the lives of adopted and foster children.

Material Title: **Story That Makes Me Special, The*(Children's Materials)**
Author: Peg Studaker and Judy Haines, Deb Contag Al-Aidy *Information Packets* 07-1990 30 pages

"The Story That Makes Me Special" is only one part of a larger binder of material entitled "FAMILY PRESERVATION: The Second Time Around, A Curriculum for Adoptive Families" produced by the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC). ORPARC received permission from NACAC to reproduce and distribute the "Lifebook" tab of this binder, under "PART II: Latency-Age Curriculum" Lifebook II-129, which is "The Story That Makes Me Special" by Peg Studaker, Judy Haines, and Deb Contag Al-Aidy and Illustrated by Michaelin Otis.

Material Title: **Telling the Truth to Your Adopted or Foster Child: Making Sense of the Past**
Author: Betsy Keefer *Books* 2000 223 pages

The goal of this book is to equip parents with the knowledge and tools they will need for a lifetime as they communicate with their adopted or foster child about the complex, troubling, and often painful aspects of his or her fragmented past. It is designed to meet the informational and practical needs of adoptive and foster parents of either domestic or international origin, with or without special needs. It is also intended for adoption professionals, mental health professionals, school teachers, and other professionals who work with adopted and foster children.

Material Title: **This is Me! Memories to Gather and Keep**
Author: Susan Pierce *Books* 2001 110 pages

This expandable book serves as an example of one way a lifestory book might be organized. Most of the pages are blank with lines or blank forms to be filled in as information is gathered or as the child grows. There are pages to be filled in about birth family, foster families, and adoptive family; about birthdays and school memories. There is purchasing information for those who would like to have this book to fill in the blanks. Can be purchased in specific foreign adoption editions.