



## **Be Sensitive to Our Waiting Children**

When waiting children attend matching events, it is essential for you, as the family's caseworker, to guide your families in what is appropriate behavior for interacting with our children. Here are some suggestions to share with your waiting families.

**Children at matching events are there to make a presentation and to volunteer for specific activities that help make the matching event a success.** The youth doing presentations will highlight unique and special qualities about themselves and other youth who are available for adoption through SWAN. They attend not only to find a forever family but also to gain volunteer and work experience and have fun.

**Please do not talk to the youth about adoption or approach them about becoming a part of your family.** It is fine to interact with them after their presentation or as they perform specific tasks. We want this day to be stress-free for them as they gain experience for their future careers.

**If you are interested in becoming a resource for one of the youth that you meet or interact with at the matching event, please notify a staff person at the event of your interest.** Provide event staff with your name, contact information, agency affiliation and the name of the youth you are interested in. We will forward your information to their caseworker. The caseworker will contact you after the event.

Thank you for your cooperation and for your commitment to special needs adoption.