

## **ADOPTION SERVICES**

Adoption is the legal and social process in which a child who is born to one set of parents becomes the child of another parent(s). The adoptive parents assume all legal rights, obligations and responsibilities of parents to the child. Durham County Social Services offers adoption services **ONLY** when the parental rights have been terminated and children cannot return to the parent or family of origin.

North Carolina law requires each family to undergo a Pre-Placement Assessment (home study) to determine their eligibility and qualifications to foster or adopt. By state law, you must be licensed to foster children and be approved to adopt children. Foster care assessments and adoption Pre-Placement Assessments are not interchangeable. The county must specifically approve your family for adoption.

**Prospective Adoptive families are also required to take MAPP training**