

THE RULES OF CONNECTED FAMILIES

A child may not dominate the family through tantrums, aggression, back talk, whining, or any other tactic.

Parents are kind, fair, and consistent; they stay calm and in control. They administer structure and limits, but they also provide a great deal of nurturing, praise, and affection.

A child is encouraged to use words to express his or her needs directly and respectfully.

Parents honor a child's boundaries and respectfully listen to his or her needs and requests. They never shame or ridicule a child's perspective.

Parents meet all reasonable needs and requests. They say "Yes" whenever they can. Occasionally they allow a compromise, and at times they say "no" and deny requests.

Parents respond to misbehavior immediately. They redirect a child to better choices, let him or her practice getting it right, and then praise their child for improvement. Once the conflict is resolved, they return to playful and warm interactions with their child.

From - *The Connected Child: Bring Hope And Healing to Your Adoptive Family*
(By Karyn B. Purvis, David R. Cross, & Wendy Sunshine)