

THE BARKER ADOPTION FOUNDATION

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS: INDIA



FACTORS LEADING CHILDREN INTO CARE:

- Poverty
- Family Illness
- Abandonment
- Lost child
- Surrender by birth family (least common, though happening more and more)

HOW CHILDREN OFTEN ENTER CARE:

- Child Welfare Committee becomes aware of a child found without family. A search is conducted, and if no family is found (or child is surrendered), they are transferred to the care of a SAA (Specialized Adoption Agency, usually an orphanage setting.)
- CARA begins the search for adoptive parents, first within India and then internationally. Children with identified specialized needs are evaluated and placed on the Special Needs list. Children with minor/correctable needs are matched with NRI/OCI families who have been waiting longest.

COMMONLY FOUND MEDICAL NEEDS & ISSUES:

- **Traditional Program (Heritage Families Only)**
 - o Unknown family relationships/history
 - o Malnutrition
 - o Delayed meeting of developmental milestones
 - o Minor Speech/language delays
 - o Low birth weight/premature birth
 - o Impacts of care in institutional setting
 - (parents must be aware of the risks of sexual/physical abuse in these settings, though this is unlikely to be known or reported at time of match)
- **Waiting Child / Special Needs Program (All families)**
 - o All above listed needs also apply in this program
 - o Delays due to lack of education and lack of stable environment
 - o Cognitive delays
 - o Moderate to Significant Developmental delays
 - o HIV+ mother
 - o Hearing impairment —this often falls on a spectrum from hearing loss in one ear to deaf
 - o Vision impairment—this often falls on a spectrum from cataracts to blindness in one eye
 - o Missing / malformed ear, facial features, limbs
 - o Full or partial vision or hearing loss
 - o Digestive, genital and urinary system issues
 - o History of neglect—this ranges from living on the streets to children left unattended
 - o Undiagnosed conditions—learning difficulties, ADHD
 - o Possibility of physical / sexual abuse is always present when children are cared for in institutional settings. Parents should be aware this will not likely be known or reported at the time of referral / match.
 - o Older children 5+

AVAILABLE CHILDREN:

Children from six months old to 14+ years old are available for adoption. Children with specialized needs and sibling groups of all ages are available for adoption. Families with Indian heritage (OCI or NRI) may be matched with a child with minor/correctable needs through the traditional program, and receive priority in the Waiting Child program.