

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is a program of Judson Center and is funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. To learn about foster care adoption and view photolistings and videos of waiting children, visit our website at www.mare.org.



Another way for you to reveal your story

Michael and Dre share their interests in new In-Depth Profiles



From Michael's In-Depth Profile:

Michael is looking for his adoptive family.

He wanted to share who he is and what he's passionate about – baseball.

As a teenager, he's using his voice to find the right adoptive family.

Michael dreamed up his own In-Depth Profile to share his love of baseball.

He modeled it after his favorite segments from the Little League World Series.



Turn to page 2 for scenes from Dre's In-Depth Profile

Scenes from Dre's In-Depth Profile



From Dre's In-Depth Profile:

Dre is passionate about dancing.

He choreographed an original dance routine for his own In-Depth Profile.

He wanted to take families behind the scenes to show how it all comes together.

Dre also is a gifted writer and shared some of his rap music with families.



Turn to page 3 for more info about In-Depth Profiles

How to make a sugar-sweet rainbow

Do you want some fun learning experiments to do at home? Here's a great one that someone on our team wanted to share: Skittle science!

Arrange the Skittles in a circle near the center of a plate.

Fill a portion of the shallow part of the plate with water and let the colors ooze toward the center. Add more water if needed.

If all goes well, you'll have a Skittles rainbow, and if not, munch on the leftover science project and start from scratch again!

If you want more ideas for homemade science projects, visit www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments



A fun new tool to help youth find a family



Michael and Dre had a great time filming their new In-Depth Profiles. MARE started this new tool to help you and others get matched with a forever family.

These new videos are designed so you can help plan, execute and edit your own videos shared on the MARE website. MARE has selected youth ages 13 to 17 years old who are able to participate

and desire to play an active role in finding a family.

As this new project unfolds, we'll provide more information in the next Youth Newsletter, so stay tuned!



The best words of wisdom often start with you

There are many different languages in the world from English, to Spanish, to French or Chinese, but sometimes the language your adoption and foster care workers speak feels just as foreign.

It can be hard to feel completely safe and happy when you don't understand what is happening. If you're not sure what something means, it's OK to ask questions.

In fact, it's a good thing to ask questions! Asking and answering questions helps you and your workers really understand what is best for you.

Your workers can use different words or explain what certain words mean, give you an example, or ask you to tell them what you heard to make sure they understand. Your workers want to

know what you think.

And it's OK if you don't always feel like talking. You can ask questions the next time you see him or her, or even write your questions down. The most important thing to remember is your voice matters!

Asking and answering questions helps your voice be heard, so whisper or shout, just get the words out!

YOUTH RESOURCES

Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative - MYOI is a partnership between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, the Oakland/Livingston Human Services Agency and many other local community partners. MYOI's goal is to ensure that young people in foster care have successful outcomes in housing, education, employment, community engagement and health.

(Michigan.gov/FYIT > MYOI)



Foster Youth in Transition - MDHHS website geared towards older youth who are experiencing foster care. It's a comprehensive, youth-oriented site with advice, interactive features, a useful glossary of foster care terms, and information on a variety of issues important to current and former foster youth. The site provides links on how to develop supports, find services, get answers to important questions and just keep you posted on what's new. (Michigan.gov/FYIT)