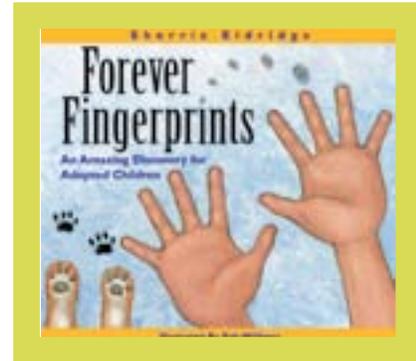


Book Review

Forever Fingerprints

An Amazing Discovery For Adopted Children

by by **Sherrie Eldridge**
Illustrated by **Rob Williams**
EMK Press



Forever Fingerprints uses a common occurrence – a relative's pregnancy – as a springboard for discussions on birthparents, and where adopted children are before they are born.

Lucie is excited to feel a baby moving in her Aunt Grace's tummy but it makes her think of how she understands her adoption story in a different way. The tools offered by her parents – an understanding of how each person has unique fingerprints given to them by the specific mixture of their birth parents genetics - give Lucie's parents the chance to reinforce their love for her, to empathize with her feelings of confusion and interest about her birth parents and to honor her connections to her birth heritage.

While the publisher says the book is appropriate for 6-9 year olds, our experience is that the younger ones will appreciate the direct discussion of birth parents and adoption but be perhaps less able to grasp the analogy of fingerprints, which may be a bit sophisticated for them. Nevertheless, the book offers another much needed opportunity to jumpstart

the discussion between parents and children about adoption and serves as a role model to parents for how they can support and comfort their children who are experiencing questions and sadness about their first family.

The pictures are colorful and focused on Lucie's world (for instance the adults are all so large, they run off the page), the family appears to be interracial where the parents are white and Lucie has brown skin, but the story is appropriate for families of all hues and does not focus on transracial issues but rather general adoption as is applicable to all families built by adoption.

Nevertheless, this is a worthwhile addition to every family's library, yet another vehicle to encourage the normal discussion of children's experience of and growing understanding about what it means to be adopted. This book is autographed by the author and includes a washable inkpad and a special sheet for making a fingerprint memory as well as some suggestions for parents about how to use the story with their children.