

China's Waiting Child Program

There are many children in China waiting for their forever families. These children are healthy but because of an often correctable or minor special need they do not qualify for the regular program. Many others have no health issues and are in the waiting child program simply due to age, over the age of six. Many have already had their conditions surgically corrected but because they had the condition previously they remain in the special needs program.

The requirements to adopt a waiting child are similar to the regular program but applicants must also submit a care and nurturing plan for the child they wish to adopt. Typically, a fairly comprehensive medical report is available on each child. These children are often in foster care in China. They often have already received some corrective surgery or treatments in China.

The waiting child program is expedited, so the adoption process is currently much shorter than the regular program. The children in this program range from eight months to thirteen years of age. Most are between the ages of 2 and 4 years old, about 50 percent are boys.

Some of the special needs may include the following:

- Cleft lip/Cleft Palate
- Congenital Heart defect
- Limb differences
- Port wine stain (birthmark)
- Club foot
- Strabismus
- Scars
- Low vision
- Hearing loss
- Hepatitis B
- Hernia
- Albinism
- Spina Bifida

The following links provide further information on this program:

<http://www.waitingchild.org/>

<http://www.familyoutreach.com/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WaitingSNChildrenChina/>