

The Children Who Wait

Billy and the Risk Involved

Adoptive patterns have changed over the years. Once there were many healthy infants available but this is no longer true.

While this is unfortunate, it, as with most adversity, also has its advantages. Now a great emphasis is being placed on finding homes for children whom agencies consider hard to place.

This series, The Children Who Wait, is concerned with youngsters who have mental, physical and/or emotional handicaps. Some are from minority races, others are biracial. Some are siblings who should be kept together. Some are older — the age range from pre-school through early teens. All need homes and love.

Billy is a case in point. Here is the CAP (Council of Adoptive Parents) Book description as of Aug. 25.

"Billy is a very handsome, 8-month-old boy, with brown hair, bright blue eyes and medium coloring. He is quite big for his age, 27 3/4 inches tall, 17 pounds, 8 ounces on 7/28/75. Billy is a very happy, responsive baby who loves attention. His development to date has been quite good. He smiles, coos, and rolls both ways. He also creeps. He does not yet



BILLY

sit alone, but sits well with support and his weight may be part of why he does not yet sit.

"Billy has a hereditary disease — Van Recklinghausen's disease. It manifest itself as many cafe-au-lait spots (light tan in coloring and various in size) on Billy's body. This disease may show no further symptoms or it may show any or all of the following: cancer of nerve ends or spots, gigantism, bone brittleness and easy breakage, slow learning (though likely not retardation), vision or hearing problems, brain tumors.

"At this point, Billy has no other symptoms but the spots but

—And your parents call and ask archly if you still live at the same address it has been "sooo long" since they've heard a word

Then you know things could be better.

—When you go to school for parent-teacher conferences and hear almost nothing but positive things about your youngsters

—And your sister, who lives much too far away, calls up two days before Thanksgiving and tells you she wants to spend the holiday with you

—And your husband demonstrates the patience of a saint, the goodness of a paragon and tops it all off with a sense of humor under your last barrage

—And your oldest gets a windfall of brand-new hand me downs that more than make up for the outgrown boots

—And you find two water-colors by an artist you've always wanted to acquire are cheaper than a print at Woolworth's

—And the flu bug finally flies away for greener pastures

—And a rug man says he thinks he can get the lipstick off the chair

—And your mom and dad sound as amiable as ever the next time you call

—And you get a lovely letter from your Gram so full of love and spirit and thoughtfulness

—And you hear all about your new nephew Joshua's progress and you anticipate hugging him so hard he squeals

Then you know how good you've really got it.

these things could develop at any time or never.

"He needs a loving family who is comfortable taking this risk. He is a Catholic child."

Billy is one of more than 1,000 children registered with the New York State Adoption exchange who are awaiting adoptive placement.

He and more than 200 other children are listed in the CAP Book.

For general information about adoption, the following agencies should be contacted:

Catholic Family Center (546-7220), Monroe County Department of Social Services (442-4000), Northaven, Inc. (266-4330), the Council of Adoptive Parents (288-7989).

For further information about Billy, the CAP Book, 436-5070, should be contacted.

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ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

—When the flu bug keeps returning week after week to hit another family member anew

—And your youngest retrieves old lipsticks from the wastebasket and stains both a rug and a chair seat

—And the garbage men forget your house Thanksgiving week

—And the storm comes and you realize you never had the snow tires put on

—And everybody is tired of turkey after having it only twice

—And the expensive boots you bought your oldest last winter won't slip on her big toe this season

—And you can't get the station wagon in the garage because the lawn chairs are still waiting to be stored in the basement

—And your husband indicates that he is weary of hearing a litany of what you consider very pressing complaints the minute he walks in the door

—And the children revert to prehistoric behavior after being together for more than 60 seconds

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