Deciding Together (DT) is a one-on-one version of preparation and selection program. It was designed for families that were unable to attend the TIPSr MAPP group sessions due to rural locations, work schedules, or smaller agencies that may only have one or two applicant families. DT Leaders work with the families on a one-on-one basis during seven 2.5-hour consultations to make a mutual decision about the family's readiness to become a foster or adoptive family. The parents will complete guidebooks based on the MAPP Leader's direction. The material and activities in the workbooks align with the information presented in the TIPS-MAPP group process. In each guidebook the Leader will instruct the parents to skip certain activities that will be completed during the family consultations so that the Leader can gauge the family's reactions, responses and questions in a more spontaneous, unrehearsed manner. These activities will serve as an assessment tool for the Leader.

The following are the titles to the six parent guidebooks:

**Book 1:** Understanding Foster Care and Adoption Today

**Book 2:** Understanding Separation and Loss

**Book 3:** Helping Children Express and Meet Their Needs

**Book 4:** Helping Children Maintain and Build Connections

**Book 5:** Understanding the Impact of Fostering and Adoption on Families

**Book 6:** Building Support Systems for Foster and Adoptive Families

The seven family consultations are designed to give the leader and the family adequate time together to prepare for the experience of fostering and adopting.

Leaders must be certified in TIPS-MAPP prior to taking DT Training. The DT Leader Training is three days which certify leaders to coach and develop prospective foster and adoptive parents using experiential activities and simulated foster care/adoption scenarios through the DT process. As a result, the leader and the family can mutually assess their strengths and needs in fostering, adopting or both. The MAPP Program provides a process for mutual problem solving and shared decision making that -- when used according to standards -- can lead to meaningful and lasting commitments to fostering and adopting.