

Adoption Access

SPECIAL DELIVERIES

Adoption Access Spring Newsletter 2005



Notes From The Director

Dear Adoptive Parents and Friends:

Happy Spring! I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and good spirits. Adoption Access celebrates its 13th anniversary this year, which means many of our families are entering, or are about to enter, the agony of adolescence. When I meet someone new and in conversation they tell me they have a 14-year-old daughter, I usually reply, "I'm so sorry." My own daughter and I say about her adolescence that someday we'll look back on it, laugh nervously, and change the subject! If it's any consolation, it's even harder on them.

Our families may have additional concerns as their teenagers grapple with the identity issues common to virtually all adolescents. As an adolescent searches for his/her identity, will their birth origins weigh heavily in their thoughts?

The answer will vary as much as your children. Some will have little interest; others will struggle with their unknowns. Some of you have quite a bit of information about your child's birth parents. Some of you have almost none. The field of adoption has changed significantly in the last decade, specifically regarding the long-term needs of adoptive children. Adoption professionals now agree that it is healthiest, psychologically, to

have as much information as possible available for an adoptive child. We have not been doing completely closed adoptions for a number of years for this reason, unless the birth mother requests it. We will try and get as much background on the birth mother and of course the birth father as possible, but we consider a closed adoption to be a disadvantage. Ongoing contact enables parents to possibly obtain additional information as needed, either for medical or psychological reasons.

An adoptive mom of mine left the hospital with her precious baby daughter, wanting, as is normal, to bond with her baby and become the "real mom." She wanted to extract herself from the birth mother and the birth mother's bond with her child as soon as possible. Her gratitude to the birth mother at the hospital had led her to promise more openness than with which she later felt comfortable. I was in a dilemma as to how to handle this awkward situation. You cannot tell a birth mother one thing and not follow through. She has to be able to trust you.

This adoptive mom began to educate herself about open adoption. As the "real mom" her first consideration was her

daughter. Her education was thorough and she concluded that the best interests of her child were served by opening up her adoption. She promptly did so, and has also become an active proponent and supporter of an organization that works to get this message out. The organization is called Adoption Knowledge Affiliates.

Not all birth mothers are appropriate for an open adoption, and certainly not all birth mothers want an open adoption. I am not advocating that all adoptions be open. I am advocating that we get all the information possible and that you be proactive in that regard.

I also want to encourage you to have openness with your child about their origins. A conference at Harvard called "Clinical Issues for Adoptive Children" stressed the importance of the family's attitude. If you provide a comfortable environment for asking questions, your child will have permission to do so if they have the desire and the need.

We have included recommendations for books in this newsletter that address the topic of telling your children about their adoptions. We hope it will be helpful to you.

Warm regards,
Debbie Hug

The Trend Toward Openness in Adoption

Common Elements of Closed Adoptions

- Birth parents often request the agency to choose the adoptive parents
- Birth and adoptive parents do not disclose any identifying information (full names & address)
- The adoptive family receives information about the birth family's medical history up to the point of placement. There is no planned, ongoing, sharing of social and medical information after the adoption is finalized
- There is no contact between the adoptive and birth family, (photos, letters, etc.)

Advantages

Total confidentiality is legally provided for birth parents who desire this.

Disadvantages

In this form of adoption, there is no ongoing exchange of information. As the child grows, he or she can have questions that remain unanswered. Closed adoptions might make it difficult to gain needed information.

Our experience has been that many families who have accepted children through a closed adoption at the birth parents request later express the desire that the birth parents reconsider their decision regarding no communication. Even in situations where the birth parents have disabilities or want their lifestyles to remain private, a semi-open arrangement is an alternative to consider because it maintains confidentiality while providing limited communication.

Keys to a Successful Closed Adoption

The greatest success is when the birth parents desire for a closed adoption is honored. Success is also enhanced when critical information regarding the birth family's history (including medical information) is shared at the time of placement. Arranging a closed adoption through a reputable agency makes it easier to gain information, mediated contact, and assistance, if necessary.

Semi-Open Adoption

Common Elements of Semi-Open Adoptions:

- The birth parents choose the family from written non-identifying material provided by the agency
- An agency mediates the contact between the parties

before and after the birth

- Birth and adoptive parents know each other by their first names only
- Adoptive parents may be present at the birth, met the birth parents before, during or after birth
- All correspondence is sent through the agency
- Post-placement meetings are arranged and supervised by the agency
- Adoptive parents often share the child's pictures and letters with the birth parents, and may also include gifts, videos, etc
- Birth parents often share updated family pictures and letters with the adoptive family as well, and may also include gifts

Advantages

The advantages of this arrangement is that both parties have the opportunity to develop a relationship over time. A semi-open adoption gives everyone the freedom to communicate with the assistance of the agency.

Perhaps the greatest advantage of this plan lies in the area of sharing information. In a semi-open adoption, current information can be passed on with ease, over time. A child's adoption story continues beyond birth, and his or her questions can be answered as they arise.

Disadvantages

At times, the adoptive parents feel "married" to the birth family.

Keys to a Successful Semi-Open Adoption

Trust is a key element of any enduring relationship. In a semi-open adoption, both families need to be sensitive to each other's position and establish a relationship grounded in trust. The agency offers objectivity, which can help to develop such a relationship.

Birth parents need to trust that the adoptive family will love the child as if the child were born to them. They accept their role as defined by the agreement, understanding that they will be included in their child's life in some way.

Adoptive families succeed in this type of adoption when they feel secure that the birth parents are pleased with their selection and are ready for the adoptive parents to accept the responsibilities of parenting.

A semi-open adoption is most successful when adoptive families are open to discovering how best to include birth parents in the life of the child.

Open Adoption

Common Elements of Open Adoptions:

- The birth parents choose a family from a written identifying material provided by the agency
- The birth and adoptive families fully disclose identifying information (names, address, numbers, emails) at the appropriate time
- The ongoing contact may include: attending the birth of the child, attending physician visits together, visits to the home, gathering as extended family members during special occasions, etc
- There is direct correspondence between each party
- The families contact each other directly by telephone and through email
- There are face-to-face meetings during the child's lifetime

Advantages

Everyone involved in an open adoption communicates directly, without the agency. This alleviates the need to have communication pass through the agency. This plan allows both families to nurture their relationship as it naturally develops. Information is shared more easily in an open adoption.

Disadvantages

Sometimes adoptive parents are uncomfortable with the level and type of birth family participation in the life of the child. There is also the possibility that the differing family styles and cultures may cause discomfort.

Keys to a Successful Open Adoption

Adoptive parents in an open adoption accept birth parents participation as a way to enhance their parenting and the life of their child, not to diminish it. Typically, they are confident enough to say “no” to birth parents without fear of jeopardizing their relationship with the birth family.

Birth parents who do well in open adoptions view their role not as parents, but as persons very special to the family. They are accepting of the entire adoptive family and build a relationship centered on what is best for the child. These birth parents are typically mature individuals who understand the need for boundaries. Often they are goal-oriented, looking for achievement in a direction other than raising a family. Open adoption is most easily understood in the context of an “extended family” relationship.

Conclusion

Each family situation is unique. Today's adoption plans offer options to meet varying circumstances. Closed adoptions place privacy for the birth parents at the center of the arrangement. Open and semi-open adoptions offer a dimension of intimacy that having a child together brings.

In any intimate relationship, interactions change over time. Think of it like this: In your own families you have members with whom you are very close and others who are more like acquaintances—there is greater distance between you. No two relationships are alike, and they develop and change over time due to new circumstances.

Every adoption has circumstances that help to define the parameters that will be best for the participants.

Children thrive when the circumstances that prompted the adoption decision for their lives are shared with them to their fullest. Relationships with some degree of openness seem to give adoptive parents the best opportunity to answer their child's questions most effectively. In open adoption plans, children grow knowing that they are loved by their family members—the parents who adopted them and the parents who gave them life.

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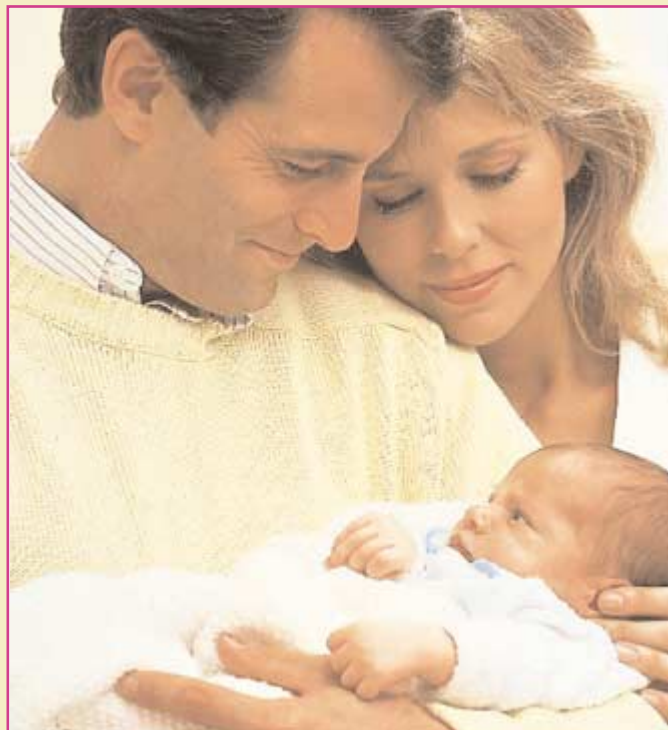
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And Baby Makes . . .

Congratulations to all our new Adoption Access families



Tom & Ann
Deja Renee-Ann
December 26, 2001

Brent & Edna Melisa
Sabina
December 8, 2004

Kale & Rebecca
Annalisa Mikal
December 8, 2004

Philippe & Rena
Tristan Paul
December 11, 2004

Rob & Nicole
Royal Win
December 13, 2004

Richard & Sandra
Abeni Diara
December 20, 2004

Will & Kelly
Alexandria
December 27, 2004

Randy & Kelly
Samuel Lucas
December 31, 2004

Mitch & Melissa
Cailyn Brooke
January 1, 2005

Jeff & Ann
Rebecca Ruth
January 3, 2005

Cirstie
Kamille Katrice
January 9, 2005

Mike & Cathy
Caitlin Shea
January 13, 2005

Mike & Cathy
Dylan James
January 13, 2005

Jeff & Sharla
Olivvya Rose
January 23, 2005

Kevin & Karen
Jack Joseph
January 24, 2005

Bill & Katy
Vivian Claire
February 8, 2005

Aaron & Sharon
Joy Engel
February 11, 2005

Jason & Jeannine
Natasha Marie
February 13, 2005

Scott & Michelle
William Harry
February 17, 2005

Bill & Pam
Simone Marie
February 24, 2005

Matt & Kathy
Haven Katherine-Beau
February 28, 2005

Todd & Melissa
Isaac Joseph
March 1, 2005

Maurice & Karen
Zachary Miles
March 5, 2005

Ron & Ruth
Jordan Samira
March 10, 2005

Howie & Dana
Noah Dale
March 12, 2005

Kimberly
Jason Colin
March 17, 2005

Brett & Tracey
Drihan Logyn
March 18, 2005

Fred & Sharon
Rosalie Gloria
March 20, 2005

Gary & Lori
Alex James
March 25, 2005

Andy & Patty
Katherine Marie
March 26, 2005

Aaron
Caleb Robert
April 8, 2005

Walter & Michelle
Samuel David
April 8, 2005

Joe & Stephanie
Lexi Ann
April 11, 2005

Mark & Jeanne
Maria Elizabeth
April 12, 2005

Michael & Laura
Audrey Faith
April 22, 2005

"She picked you! Would you like a beautiful baby girl?" With those words (and tears streaming down my face), we ever so suddenly became parents. Fast forward one year. It is our beautiful

Beloved Elizabeth's first birthday and she is lovingly surrounded by 24 of our family members and friends. One relatively new friend and a

couple of her family members are among the partygoers—Elizabeth's Birthmother. While reading aloud to the kids "The Rainbow Fish," a story in which a fish with many beautiful, shiny scales eventually makes friends by sharing its scales with other fish, I am struck profoundly by the obvious analogy. We would never have had the opportunity to become friends with our newfound friend and her family, had she not shared with us something of the utmost value to her, Our Beloved Elizabeth.

I do mean "our." Our Beloved Elizabeth will grow up knowing of the indescribable love her Birthmother has (present tense) for her. She will see first-hand from whence she genetically received her height, her beautiful eyes, and her as-yet-undetermined skills. She will know first-hand that her Birthmother formed an adoption plan for her, NOT because she was... a bad baby, an ugly baby, an unwanted baby, a fill-in-the-blank-with-any-adjective-a-pubescent-child-might-possibly-envision baby, but because her Birthmother loved her so very much and was so incredibly mature that she realized her Beloved baby would have a more stable life in

another loving family's home.

One of my brothers thought we were "asking for trouble" by fostering continued contact with

Elizabeth's Birthmother and her family. Certainly we have heard the horror stories of a Birthmother's returning to demand her child back.

Evolution of An Open Adoption

However, given the increasingly significant number of open adoptions, statistically, these few media sensations are almost negligible. Yet, why would we risk the chance that we might become the next media-heartbreak? I recall in one agency's orientation meeting, several couples did not return from the mid-morning break after being told that agency (not Adoption Access, Inc.) arranged only open adoptions. Neither were we sold yet on open adoption as our preferred arrangement. However, in later sessions, a panel of Birthmothers and adoptive mothers shared their experiences with open adoption. One Birthmother noted that simply because she was not in a position to parent her child, did not mean that she did not love the child and desperately long to be a part of the child's life. An open adoption, with explicit boundaries identified, allowed the Birthmother to revel in the child's development and not live with the constant, nagging "unknown" of a closed adoption. She spoke of how much that helped her deal with her grief of not being able to parent the child she so loved. Her contact with the adoptive family helped immensely with her endeavors to move forward with her life without wallowing in the haunting despair of not knowing for sure how the child she lovingly bore was doing.

We were beginning to buy into this open adoption business. After pouring over many books on open adoption, reading the recent research on open adoption, and having several conversations with our niece and her husband who have two children with separate open adoptions, we became believers. It seemed to us that the more people who loved Elizabeth and were a part of her life, the better for us all! Additionally, all parties in the adoption triad seemed to benefit.

As my brother witnesses how beautifully our open adoption is progressing and how well our niece's two open adoptions are working, he's beginning to see that open adoption may not resemble his media-inspired expectations. He



sees that Elizabeth's Birthmother is not hounding us with suggestions of how to rear her, is not demanding anything of us, and is not stalking us. In fact, since the legal finalization of Elizabeth's adoption in August, some eight months ago, after which we sent her Birthmother our phone number (ok, so we first sent her only our cell number...a testament to the fact that we, too, have to ease into this relationship), she has called to chat with us only twice. The birthday party was the first time we had seen her since the one time we met prior to Elizabeth's placement. Although we now have her phone number (she left it for us to call her back with directions to our home for the party) and could readily find her address, we still send our pictures and letters through Adoption Access and let her instigate calls to us. Perhaps as our relationship develops and as she has more time to heal from her loss, she will invite us to call her or to send our pictures and letters directly to her. We are sailing in uncharted waters; each open adoption is different.

Our hope is that Our Elizabeth will always know the incredible love she has brought to so many, whether they parent her daily or more occasionally guide her as loved ones are wont to do. We pray that as Elizabeth's Birthmother's life journey progresses, she is happy and able to maintain an active role in Elizabeth's life for both of their sakes—and ours, too.

Laura, PhD

Patty, meet your daughter

Goosebumps! I broke down in tears

On Easter Sunday we got “the call” that we would be shown to a Birthmother and her husband if we so desired. The Birthparents had contacted the agency after she went into labor, so the baby was already here—a healthy beautiful baby girl!

Excitement...nervousness...will they chose us? We knew it was a “God thing” but we couldn't help but be nervous and filled with hope and anticipation. Sleepless night...the next day the call from the agency came (watched phones do ring!), and the case worker began, “You are going to be a Mom!!!” I broke into tears – hysterical really. She then said she would call my husband with details as I was too excited!! We were told we would pick up our daughter (that sounded so cool) the very next day!!

Our lifelong dream was happening! It is impossible to say how we felt—beyond joy. Then practicality kicked in – we had no “gear.” We had no baby stuff! Sure, we had bought neutral colored cute outfits here and there...and had the crib all assembled but where were the car seat, stroller, diapers, pacifiers? Three cartsful later at Target we were all set. Did you know you must have three doctorates to put together a car seat? Well you do. Three in the morning, and my poor husband got it all together—all the gear!

So off we went the next day with empty car seat in tow. We sighed with relief when the call came that both Birthparents had signed the paperwork. A neutral location was picked to meet our daughter, and we were told that the Birthmom wanted to hand us the baby. What??? Did I hear that right? I was so nervous that I was shaking. How would this unfold?



On the Border right next to the hospital was selected for the neutral location. I will never eat fajitas the same again! We arrived first...deer in headlights. We had no idea what the Birthparents looked like or what came next. We then saw three people carrying a car seat enter the restaurant. A smiling warm face walked over to me, hugged me and said "Patty, meet your daughter." The Birthmom handed me the baby and whispered to me to take good care of her little girl. Goosebumps. I broke down in tears. Of course our case worker was fabulous and made sure everyone felt comfortable.

We all then sat down and visited—about two hours actually. The Birthparents wanted to share with us their reasons for adoption and to tell us how very much they love and care for their children. It was important to them for us to listen, so we did.

The Birthmom showed me how to care for the baby—"she takes this much formula and seems to like this and that." The baby cried for formula. The Birthmom handed me the bottle and I handed it back, saying "I would like for you to feed your daughter this last time." We took many photographs. It was so very meaningful to us to meet these wonderful and mature people giving us the greatest gift of all. And what maturity! They were placing their child with us because they could not provide economically for her, plus the Birthmom had been adopted herself and had a wonderful experience. What a selfless act. Our hearts grew as did our respect for this amazing couple.

I had read articles in adoption books about the respect and admiration for the Birthparents, but did not know how I would personally feel about it. But when our Birthmom was a real human being in front of me, all those fears and doubts evaporated. She was amazing! It was I who was humbled.

Finally there was a heartfelt departure with crying all around, but tears of joy. We departed "On the Border" with the brand new car seat filled with our baby girl!!

I sent this loving couple flowers the next day (through the Agency) followed up by some pictures and a letter the next week. I plan on sending lots of pictures and letters because it gives me joy to do so and it will help this couple know their little girl is well cared for. I am keeping a book for our daughter so she, too, can join with us in respect and appreciation for her Birthparents. I am getting her Mother's Day gift in order now too.

Adoption Access is terrific and ultra professional. We needed their guidance and support along the way, and we had it each and every step of the journey.

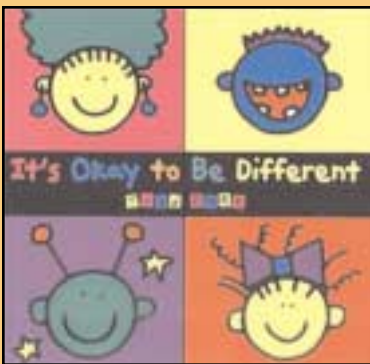
A new journey begins with our beautiful baby girl! We are beyond happy. In 24 hours, our lifelong dream became true! Yours will too!

Patty and Andrew



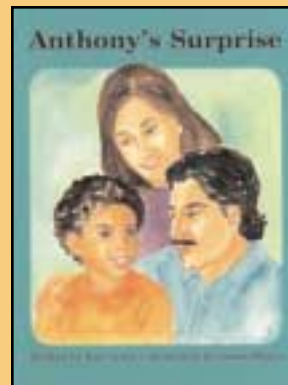
Recommended Reading

Books Of Interest For Adoptive Parents and Kids



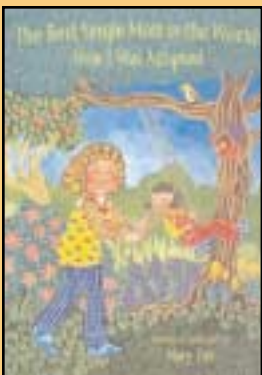
It's Okay to be Different
by Todd Parr
IT'S OKAY TO BE DIFFERENT features Todd Parr's trademark bold, bright colors and silly scenes. This book embraces diversity in a unique way.

Deceptively simple in appearance, this book cleverly delivers its important messages of acceptance, understanding, and confidence in a child-friendly package.



Anthony's Surprise
by Roz Grace
After getting teased on the way home from school because of his dark skin, young Anthony decides to discuss the incident with his mom. To *ANTHONY'S SURPRISE*, his parents tell him that he's biracial—his birthmother was black and his birthfather was white. With

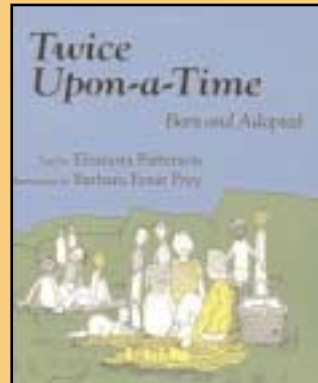
his parents' guidance, he learns that as long as he loves himself, it doesn't matter what other people think. If they say mean things, it's because they have difficulty meeting and accepting someone who is different from themselves. For ages 4 to 11.



The Best Single Mom in the World: How I was Adopted
by Mary Zisk

Mary and her Mom love to tell the story of how they became a family. Before Mary was born, her mom lived alone in their house. She loved her work and her friends, but something was missing... Mary! Her mom wanted to share her life with a child

who needed a family. So she traveled the world, across the ocean and over the mountains, to find Mary. She's *THE BEST SINGLE MOM IN THE WORLD*. For ages 3 to 8.



Twice Upon A Time: Born and Adopted
by Eleanora Patterson
Not every family is formed in the same way, but all children, even adopted ones, grew inside their birthmother before they were born. This picture book starts with a description of conception, pregnancy and birth. It then

explains how a child enters a family through adoption. *TWICE UPON A TIME: BORN AND ADOPTED* helps adopted children to feel good about themselves and their families. For ages 4 to 10.

Recommended Reading



Mr. Rogers—Let's Talk About It: Adoption
by Fred Rogers

To be in a family is to belong, but children who are adopted may have some confusing feelings about what that means. In *LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: ADOPTION*, Mr. Rogers confronts, with sensitivity and insight, the questions children have about being adopted. He describes the many ways that children feel close to their families—celebrating special occasions, doing everyday activities, and spending quiet moments together. In his characteristically reassuring tone, Mr. Rogers shares an important message—the secure feeling of belonging in a family comes from being loved. For ages 4 to 8.



Never Never Never Will She Stop Loving You
by Jolene Durrant

A child who is adopted often has many questions, such as, “Does my birth mother ever think about me?” “Why didn’t she keep me?” and “What was it like

for her when she was pregnant?” *NEVER NEVER NEVER WILL SHE STOP LOVING YOU* is the story of a birth mother, Annie, and the baby she placed for adoption. It is a wonderfully reassuring book for adopted children about how they are loved and wanted, both by their new family and their birth mother. For ages 4 to 8.



Parenting Your Adopted Older Child: How to Overcome the Unique Challenges and Raise a Happy and Healthy Child
by Brenda McCreight, Ph.D.

Written with understanding and care, *PARENTING YOU ADOPTED OLDER CHILD* is a comprehensive, practical look at overcoming the various challenges of raising a child

adopted over the age of two. These range from complex issues like ADHD and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome to simpler, but no less challenging ones such as self-identity and creating a sense of belonging. This book is a step-by-step guide to identifying a child’s individual needs and helping him or her to progress from a past life to a new family.



Did My First Mother Love Me?
by Kathryn Ann Miller

What a natural and normal question for an adopted child to ask, “*DID MY FIRST MOTHER LOVE ME?*” Children may fear that their birthparents gave them away because they

weren’t loved or even lovable. They can’t imagine any positive circumstances that may have caused a birthparent to make an adoption plan. This book tells of one birthmother’s wishes, hopes, and dreams for her baby. It helps to reassure younger children that their birthmother did indeed love them and want the best for them. For ages 4 to 8.

Recommended Reading



The Face in the Mirror: Teenagers and Adoption
by *Marion Crook*
Being a teenager in today's complex world is a difficult enough task, but adopted teens have an additional struggle: to discover their identity and a sense of belonging and place in the world. **THE FACE IN THE MIRROR**,

based on numerous interviews with adopted teens, adoptive parents, and birth parents, brings attention to the growing and often controversial phenomenon of teenagers wanting to know where they came from. The book, written for both teenagers and adults, is a frank discussion of the issues surrounding adoption.



Secret Thoughts of An Adoptive Mother

by *Debra Stewart Peterson*

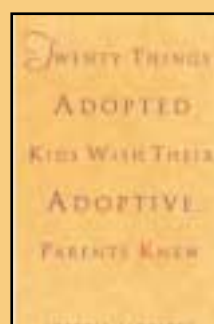
What a great book! **SECRET THOUGHTS OF AN ADOPTIVE MOTHER** reveals the hidden emotions that so many adoptive parents are afraid or embarrassed to share, believing they are alone in feeling this way—feelings of amusement

and terror, surrealism and sarcasm, familiarity and alienation. This book discusses the author's fears, concerns, and questions about adoption. You won't be able to put it down until you've read it from cover to cover.



The Post-Adoption Blues: Overcoming the Unforeseen Challenges of Adoption
Karen J. Foli, Ph.D., and John R. Thompson, M.D.
THE POST-ADOPTION BLUES is designed to do two things. The first is to explain the common issues that face most, if not all, families during the post-adoption period,

and the second is to provide simple, effective help for you, the adoptive or kinship parent. Together, we will explore how you can consciously acknowledge the expectations that may be contributing to your struggles, makes sense of the nagging emotions that can keep you from the joy you deserve, and help you move forward confidently and happily as parents and as a family.



Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew

by *Sherrie Eldridge*

This remarkable book offers an unparalleled window into the heart of the adopted child, giving voice to feelings that are often too difficult to express. In powerful, poignant essays, it highlights the **TWENTY THINGS ADOPTED KIDS WISH THEIR ADOPTIVE PARENTS KNEW**.

It also speaks to the unspoken concerns at the heart of every adoptive family, offering practical advice for addressing past issues, handling current crises, and ensuring a long, loving future for you and your children.

Recommended Reading



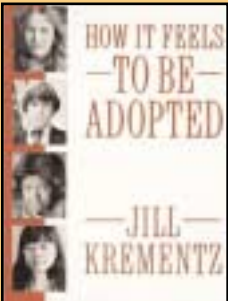
Adoption is for Always
by *Linda Walvoord Girard*
When Celia learns that she is adopted, she is upset. Why did her birthmother give her up? Did she do something wrong? Her parents' explanation of adoption helps to reassure her. **ADOPTION IS FOR ALWAYS** is a comforting book for children to understand

about a birthparents' decision to make an adoption plan. For ages 6 to 12.



Breastfeeding The Adopted Baby
by *Debra Stewart Peterson*
Nursing a baby is a natural process and the first choice for many mothers. You do not need to have been pregnant in order to breastfeed your baby. But without a pregnancy, you do need to do a little more preparation. **BREASTFEEDING THE ADOPTED BABY** gives you all the

practical information and emotional support that you need. After reading this book, you will feel informed and confident with your decision to breastfeed your baby.



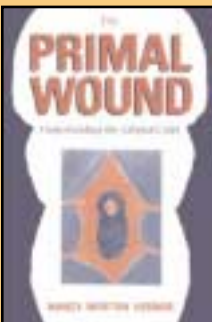
How It Feels To Be Adopted
by *Jill Krentz*
This book is widely recommended, and with good reason—it's one of the best. In it, nineteen youngsters describe **HOW IT FEELS TO BE ADOPTED**. These young people explain, from an adolescent point of view, both the good and the bad

sides about being adopted. Give this personal and moving book as a gift to your child, but don't forget to take the time to read it yourself.



Circles of Stone
by *A.J. Garrotto*
Natalia McCrory has it all - a high profile career, fame, wealth, a man who loves her. When a terrible family secret related to her adoption is revealed, she is forced to reassess her priorities and nurture her long neglected inner spirit. The result is a

life change she never could have imagined. A must read for adoptive families.



**The Primal Wound:
Understanding the Adopted
Child**
by *Nancy Newton Verrier, M.A.*
THE PRIMAL WOUND is a book that is both forceful and courageous in the way it approaches the subject of adoption. Using information about pre- and perinatal psychology, attachment, bonding, and loss, it

illuminates the effect that separation from their birthmother has on adopted children. This book provides validation of many adoptees' feelings, as well as bringing clarity and understanding to their experiences