

Adoption Access

S P E C I A L

DELIVERIES

Adoption Access Winter Newsletter 2006

Dear Adoptive Parents and Friends:



Notes From The Director

Greetings,

I hope everyone survived the holidays. They are often so hectic it's hard to fully enjoy them. This was my first Christmas with a grandchild to spoil and give back to his parents, and that is by far the best. I have enjoyed the grandparents of your children many times when they have accompanied you to the agency or hospitals. Their happiness for you has always been such a joy to watch. Many of you have sent pictures to your birthparents or grandparents holding, loving and playing with your children. I know this means a great deal to our birthparents to see how much a child is loved by an entire family. A dear friend gave me a pillow when she learned that I was about to become a first time grandmother. It was embroidered with the saying, "Children are a gift from god". I asked her if she would be offended if I wrote in "Children are a gag gift from god" because surely grandchildren are the gift! Of course I was jesting, but grandchildren carry the same rewards without the

same upkeep. Wish I could say the same for my body.

I had a heartwarming experience getting on a flight at DFW during the holidays that I'd like to share. First I have to admit I was smuggling my four-pound Yorkie on a flight. I justify this because he doesn't make a sound and travels very well. At security the young woman looked at my license and then quickly looked up at me. My first thought was I'm red flagged and they know I have a dog. Guilt makes me paranoid. She let me go and as I was almost to the conveyor belt (where I have to take him out) she came back up to me. I'm thinking to myself, dang, I'm busted. She said, "Are you Debbie Hug with Adoption Access"? She turned out to be a former birthmother and wanted to share with me what a wonderful relationship she continues to enjoy with her adoptive parents. They exchange pictures of their children and stories of their lives at least once a year. She couldn't say enough wonderful things about the family she had chosen, and we were both hugging and crying before we parted. It was the very best Christmas present I received.

By honoring her and their commitment to her, these parents had helped their birthmother deal with any and all grief and loss issues that come with placing a child for adoption. I know I have spoken about this before, but the fact remains that our society supports abortion more than adoption. If you lose a child through death or miscarriage, your family and friends will bring food and flowers and comfort to you. When you lose a child through an adoptive placement, you usually

can't tell anyone without hearing something like, "how could you give a child away? I could never do that" —thus piling shame and guilt on top of the loss.

A not unusual placement is happening this week at the agency that illustrates the isolation an adoptive placement can mean to a birthmother. A hospital called us when a young woman showed up to deliver her baby and wanted to make an adoption plan. She had spoken to no one about this until after the delivery. Her plan was to tell her family that the baby had died. Our counselor, Erynn, met with her, and she wanted to complete the necessary paperwork as quickly as possible. She told Erynn that she wanted to complete it all in one session and did not want ongoing counseling. She even asked Erynn how many times she would have to meet with the hospital social worker and with Erynn. She stated she wanted no phone calls and no letters. There are agencies that would love this. It's much less work and man hours. She doesn't want to hear about families or choose. We do not feel good about a placement like this. We know that she is simply dealing with her grief and loss by not dealing with it. It is just too painful at this time. We also know that she has cut off any comfort or support from her family by not trusting them with knowledge of her decision.

Erynn let her know that we would be there for her if at any time in the future she wanted to talk to a counselor—a few days, weeks, months or years. At this time the only comfort we can offer her is to completely respect her needs and

protect her confidentiality. This scenario always breaks my heart. The burden of this grief when carried alone can be intolerable. The lack of a support system that loves you unconditionally is immeasurably sad. We will have so few answers for the child of this birthmother

We have a saying at the agency. *When you honor your birthmother, you honor your child.* Please be generous and heartfelt in your ongoing contact, if your birthmother desires it. It is in everyone's best interest, especially your child's. Occasionally parents will withhold pictures because they want their birthmother to send pictures to them. We certainly understand this and appreciate that you want to provide this to your child. However we implore you to go ahead and send your pictures and keep the avenues of communication open. Our best chance of getting information and pictures from your birthmother is letting her deal with her feelings in her own time. You can always let her know how important she is and how important it is for this precious child to know about her.

We believe our adoptive parents make wonderful parents. If every child came into this world as wanted and cared for as our children, this would be a better planet for all of us. You are ready in so many important ways to parent, and our experience with you proves to us this is paramount. We are very grateful to you and for you.

Best Wishes,
Debbie Hug

On Thursday, July 28, 2005 at about 3:30PM, we received the call that every family waits for: "We have your son..."

It all started on Wednesday when I sought my regular monthly update as to where we stood on the list. At the end of the email update, Stephanie, our coordinator, wrote that there was a situation with a birth family that she would like for us to consider. So she sent us medical and genetic information and told us that he was born on July 22, 2005. Both parents had already signed papers for their rights to be terminated, and the baby was then with a foster family. At that point there were three families considering this placement. Before we gave permission to show our album, we requested to view all of his hospital records so we could meet with a pediatrician on Thursday afternoon.

We met with the pediatrician, which was another answered prayer because I called his office at 5:15pm on Wednesday, and his answering service answered. I asked that the doctor call me back—keep in mind that I was not a client nor had he ever seen any of our kids because we didn't have any at the time! Well, he called me back within five minutes, and I explained that I wanted him to review the records for purposes of evaluating a potential adoption. He was more than willing to help us out. I asked him if we could do it the next day, Thursday, and he chuckled and said "Well, let me have my nurse call you in the morning after we look at my schedule, and I will be happy to set aside 30 minutes or so for you and your husband."

We went to the pediatrician on Thursday afternoon and guess what? *HE IS A FIGHT-IN' TEXAS AGGIE! WHOOP!* Then, he proceeded to spend an hour with us talking about everything. He reviewed the records and said they looked great—a perfectly healthy baby boy—no red flags! We thanked him profusely and went to check out, and they did not even charge us! Can you believe that!?

When we got home, we called the agency and told them yes, they can show our book to the birthmother and birthfather. The agency told us that they were waiting on a call from the birthmom because she still wanted to pick the parents as far as they knew. But they hadn't heard from her since she left the hospital and they had tried repeatedly to call her. The agency told us that they were probably going to be the ones to place this child—the ones to actually pick the parents. Well if you know me—Miss Direct—I ask Stephanie, "What are we up against here? Are we competing or what? I really want to get excited, but I am afraid to." Stephanie said, "Ashley, you can get cautiously excited. I have some things to do and get in place here and I will call you back." Tim asked, "Do we need to go to Babies 'R' Us to get some things?" She replied, "You should always be prepared." So, all in all, she pretty much told us that he was ours! But it wasn't official yet.

We waited as 45 minutes passed and then the phone rang, and Chavon, the caseworker, said, "Ashley, we are ready to place him with you. When would you like to pick him up?" I said, "Ok, we can pick him up tomorrow morning!" (Keep in mind here, that we had NOTHING, no car seat, no diapers, nothing! I wanted time to be Miss Organized and get all the essentials together.) Chavon continued, "No, No, Ashley, we want you to pick him up tonight! How about you meet us at the foster family's home at about 7:30 pm?" Tim was practically in the car at this point honking the horn telling me we have to go shopping. I told Chavon OK, we would pick the baby up and we left.

We had a good trip to Babies 'R' Us and picked up the basics. And for new parents, I think we handled this very well I might add! If we could figure out how it worked, we bought it. Then we loaded up and drove out to meet our son. As soon as we walked into the foster parents' home, Kari Duncan handed him to me and I couldn't believe it; I think I felt my heart grow! I told Tim while we were shopping that I thought I was having chest pains. Ha-ha, it was just my heart growing before we even met him. We stayed at the foster parents' home for two hours and got his whole story. Then we loaded up, spent another 35 minutes with that car seat getting it all set up right for Samuel Augustus, and we drove home as a family.

I am truly in awe at how good God is to us. Baby Julia will join our family in four short months, and Gus is already getting excited about a little sister. Tim and I are doing great, and he is of course a wonderful father.

Ashley



From left to Right: Chavon Perry, caseworker; new family Ashley, Gus and Tim; Kari Duncan, Adoption Access Director; and Cynthia and Rus Rutledge, Foster parents

Surgery Can Relieve Children's Sleep Apnea

Removing tonsils and adenoid tissue can help children with obstructive sleep apnea, according to a new study from Baylor College of Medicine.

"Breathing and oxygen levels significantly improve after surgery," says Dr. Michael Stewart, associate professor of otorhinolaryngology (the medical and surgical treatment of the head and neck, including the ears, nose and throat) at Baylor.

Thirty-one children participated in the study with 24 of them having undergone surgery.

Following surgery, the children also experienced a

reduction in throat infections, sore throats, difficulty swallowing and snoring.

If left untreated, obstructive sleep apnea—in which breathing stops periodically during sleep—can cause reduced oxygen levels in the blood, irregular blood pressure, heart problems and constriction of blood vessels in the lungs. It can lead to behavioral and attention problems as a result of sleep deprivation. In extreme cases, sleep apnea can cause death.

The only other treatment in children has traditionally been the nighttime use of a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) mask. Although effective, the mask is typically not used regularly, says Stewart, as kids don't like wearing it.

Aside from the minor risk associated with any surgery, this appears to be a safe way to address the problem. "In the long term, there is no risk in removing tonsils and adenoids," says Stewart.

Article from *Dallas Child*

Adoption Access Executive Administrative Staff

Debbie Hug
Executive Director

Kari Duncan
Director

Jacqui Gripman
Chief Financial Officer

Stephanie Holmes
Adoptive Parent Coordinator

Eva Gonzalez
Administrative Assistant

Roger Owens
Transportation

Caseworkers-DFW
Erynn Shipley
Chavon Perry
Marisol Garcia
Debby Christian

Caseworkers-Houston
Jessica Nelson
Melissa Stiles
Beth Rodriguez

Caseworker-Amarillo/Lubbock
Kristen Blankenship

Caseworker-El Paso/Midland
Rose Tarin

Caseworker-Austin
Kerry Byrd

Caseworkers-San Antonio
Liza Miranda
Mirta Paterson

Caseworkers-East Texas
Jennifer Parker

Caseworkers-Oklahoma
Kerri Wells

Houston Area Transracial Adoptive Families Form Support Group

There is now a support/play/book group for families in the Houston area who have adopted (or plan to adopt) children from within the United States who have a different racial or ethnic heritage. The group will be an on-line gathering place for support and mentoring between members and an organizing tool for planning monthly get-togethers and cultural outings for parents and kids. We will also read and discuss books that are of interest to the group.

You can join by going to:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Texas_Transracial_Adoption_Group/ and click JOIN THIS GROUP. If you do not have a Yahoo ID, you simply sign up for one and can get started right away.

This group was the brainstorm of an Adoption Access family in Houston and has taken off in the last several months. It is a great way for transracial adoptive families to grow and learn together, as well as for children to connect with others in their unique situations. This group is not exclusive to Adoption Access families by any means, so if you know anyone else who might be interested, please feel free to pass along the information.

And Baby Makes . . .

Congratulations to all our new Adoption Access families



December 26, 2001
Tom & Ann
Deja Renee-Ann

April 8, 2005
Aaron
Caleb Robert

April 8, 2005
Walter & Michelle
Samuel David

April 10, 2005
Mike & Maria
Grayson James

April 11, 2005
Joe & Stephanie
Lexi Ann

April 12, 2005
Mark & Jeanne
Maria Elizabeth

April 13, 2005
Michael & Laura
Audrey Faith

April 22, 2005
Ted & Sally
Jacob Neil

April 27, 2005
Ray & Niccole
Adell Elizabeth

April 27, 2005
Randy & Kelly
Emma Grace

May 2, 2005
Kevin & Lisa
Keegan Michael
Capshaw

May 4, 2005
Eric & Dee
Jason Crosby

May 5, 2005
Michael & Lisa
Erin Elizabeth

May 9, 2005
Brendan & Debbie
Colin Robert

May 11, 2005
Brad & Melissa
Evelyn Belle

May 11, 2005
Howard & Sally
Elisha Zev-Leib

May 13, 2005
Jeff & Diane
Jada Charmayne

May 17, 2005
Jim & Karinn
Traever James

May 23, 2005
Mark & Lisa
Leigh Dawn

May 30, 2005
Dwayne & Sherry
Callie

June 5, 2005
Alex & Aubrae
Chayse Alexander

June 6, 2005
Terry & Shannon
Montana Jewel

June 15, 2005
Brian & Jennifer
Kathleen Louise

June 20, 2005
Tra & Osk
Zellah Stefani

June 21, 2005
John & Susan
John Randolph

June 29, 2005
Laura
Naomi Straube

June 29, 2005
Rob & Amy
Faith Elizabeth

June 30, 2005
Anthony & Kimberly
Grace Michelle

July 10, 2005
Hamilton & Diane
Lawson Silas

July 20, 2005
Brad & Kim
Matthew Bryan

July 22, 2005
Tim & Ashley
Samuel Augustus

7/27/05
Rodney & Kristi
Emma Karen

July 30, 2005
Michael & Jennifer
Maya Gabrielle

August 4, 2005
Mark & Ellen
Kayleb Tumi

August 12, 2005
Patricia
Caitlyn Symone

August 12, 2005
Glenn & Amy
Zane Daniel

And Baby Makes . . .

Congratulations to all our new Adoption Access families



August 12, 2005
Jesse & Marie
Briggs Michael

August 18, 2005
Phillip & Susan
Elias Bramlett

August 22, 2005
Bary & Julie
William Byrne

September 19, 2005
John & Stacey
Marin Wynne

September 27, 2005
Igor & Nora
Naomi Gabriela

October 12, 2005
Paul & Victoria
Olivia Leigh

October 16, 2005
Woody & Liz
Lauren Elizabeth

October 16, 2005
George & Shannon
Grayson or Jacob

October 17, 2005
Steven & Sheila
Andrew Steven

November 1, 2005
James & Kathleen
Sierra Nicole

November 10, 2005
Chuck & Ramona
Anthony David

November 12, 2005
Hunter Richard
Joel & Rochelle

November 14, 2005
Doug & Jill
Douglas Wynton

November 15, 2005
Raechel Avery
Michael & Allie

December 5, 2005
Sarah Nicole
Jerry & Karen

December 7, 2005
Lyla Joe
Brandi & Sherry

December 8, 2005
Caroline Francis
Brad & Laura

December 10, 2005
Hayley Elizabeth Grace
Russell & Lisa

December 12, 2005
John, IV
John & Rebecca

December 23, 2005
Kara Christine
Dan & Darla

January 1, 2006
Lauren Olivia
George & jana

January 5, 2006
Elsa Faye Ann
William & Lisa

January 8, 2006
D'Von Patrick
Spencer & Kimberly

January 13, 2005
Tayeson Jay
Terry & Melissa

January 19, 2006
Rachel Catherine
John & Joanne

January 30, 2006
Grace Frances
Jeffrey & Laura

February 4, 2006
Graham Kesler
Samuel & Kristen

February 5, 2006
xxxxx
Kenneth & Ann

February 7, 2006
Illianna Joyce
Chris & Rubianna

February 9, 2006
Alexandria Perpetua
Maria Theresa
Marc & Lara

February 13, 2006
Tara Ananda
Andy & Sharm

February 13, 2006
Jacob James
Neil & Christine

What's A Parent To Do?



Teenagers now spend an average of three hours each day on the computer. Children and teens are immersed in the world of web pages, chat rooms, instant messaging, online games and all things digital. You can't totally unplug your kids from the digital world, so what's a parent to do?

With ControlKey's unique hardware and software combination you get absolute assurance and the peace of mind that comes from encouraging your children to explore the wonderfully-educational world of the web, but without the worries of exposure to unacceptable Internet content. Plus, protect your family's financial files and other private information.

The ControlKey token plugs right into any of your computer's USB ports to provide a straightforward way of managing your children's Internet use. Without ControlKey, your children can only access the part of the Internet that you have defined as okay. But, simply plug in the ControlKey and you and your children can have full access to the Internet when you approve.

Get Peace of Mind and Freedom in the Internet Age

You know what sites your children can get to because you've approved them. Without ControlKey your children can explore the Internet within the boundaries that you specify. When the key is in your pocket or purse, you know your children are safe. When you want, simply plug the ControlKey into one of your computer's USB ports to provide unrestricted Internet use for you or for your children's supervised use. ControlKey addresses the concerns of parents who are worried about unacceptable Internet content when they are not able to be near the computer with their children.

Control in Hand

Without ControlKey, no one can change the settings you've established for your computer. You can decide when and how long the computer can be used. You can decide what your children do and read online, even manage instant messaging, file sharing and chat.

Security in the Palm of Your Hand

ControlKey seamlessly integrates with Microsoft Windows XP. Upon startup, the computer will recognize who is using the computer and allow appropriate access. Set up separate accounts for your kids, or share computer access with a single account. Either way, you can use ControlKey as a tool to help you parent right in the Internet Age.

How ControlKey Works

The patent-pending ControlKey system simply plugs into the computer's USB port to provide advanced security protection. As the key holder, you can program the system to provide as much, or as little, access to individual users as you see fit. When you remove the ControlKey token from the USB port, ControlKey locks down Internet access to only those sites you have pre-approved so that you can easily control when and how long your children are able to use the Internet. When the ControlKey token is plugged into the USB port, you and your children can access all of the Internet like normal. However, once the ControlKey token is removed, the computer operates in restricted mode (based on guidelines you can customize). That way, you know that if you have the ControlKey with you, your children - and the babysitter - are not online where they shouldn't be. What's more, you can configure ControlKey to provide access to parents accounts that require the ControlKey and the right password to log in, allowing you to protect personal financial files and other important information, too.

Proven Technology

The ControlKey System is based on Griffin Technologies' award-winning SecuriKey® technology and over 10 years of experience in providing computer security solutions to businesses.

Price: \$59.99

Available: www.controlkey.com



ControlKey seamlessly integrates with Microsoft Windows XP Home and Windows XP Professional.

Keep tabs on your child's development.

CDC asks parents to "Learn The Signs, Act Early."

You track your young child's physical growth, but how about his/her behavioral growth?

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) want parents to know the value of measuring a child's early social and emotional progress. The CDC's awareness campaign, "Learn the Signs. Act Early" offers warning signs of developmental disabilities.

"By recognizing the signs of developmental disabilities early, parents can seek effective treatments which can dramatically improve their child's future," says CDC director Dr. Julie Gerberding. An estimated 17 percent of US children have a developmental or behavioral disability such as autism, mental retardation or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

"It's important for parents to note when their child learns to smile, how often their child smiles, when their child starts to speak, when their child begins to play and how their child interacts with others. And if a parent notices anything that seems unusual, we want them to talk with their child's doctor or healthcare provider," adds Dr. Jose Cordero, director of the CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities.

Every child develops at his or her own pace, but most reach key milestones within a certain time range. The CDC offers an extensive list of milestones at www.cdc.gov/actearly. You can also request information by calling 1-800-232-4656.



Examples of Developmental Milestones

End of 3 months

- Begins to develop a social smile
- Watches faces intently
- Begins to babble

End of 7 months

- Explores with hands and mouth
- Responds to own name
- Supports while weight on legs

End of 12 months

- Shy or anxious with strangers
- Imitates gestures
- Says "dada" and "mama"

End of 24 months

- Imitates behavior of others
- Begins to sort by shapes and colors
- Repeats words overheard in conversation

End of 36 months

- Grasp the concepts of "mine" and "his/hers"
- Expresses a wide range of emotions
- Understand most sentences

End of 48 months

- Cooperates with other children
- Speaks in sentences of five or six words
- Throw a ball overhand

End of 60 months

- Wants to please friends
- Can count 10 or more objects
- Dresses and undresses without help

Keeping The Stork Busy



Three Adoption Access employees had babies recently. We are pleased to introduce these little cuties to you.

Ryan Adam Ohls Jr.
Born December 12, 2005
6 pounds, 10 ounces; 19 inches
Proud parents: Ashley and Ryan Ohls
Mom is our Caseworker in Austin



Abigail "Abby" Rose Nelson
Born January 6, 2006
8 pounds, 11 ounces; 20.75 inches
Proud parents: Jessica and Keith Nelson
Mom is one of our Caseworkers in Houston

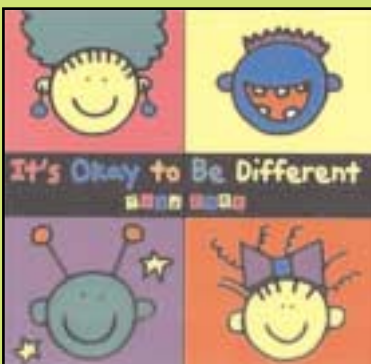


Fintan Matthew Stiles
Born May 16, 2005
6 pounds, 10 ounces; 19½ inches
Proud parents: Melissa and Jeremy Stiles
Mom is one of our Caseworkers in Houston



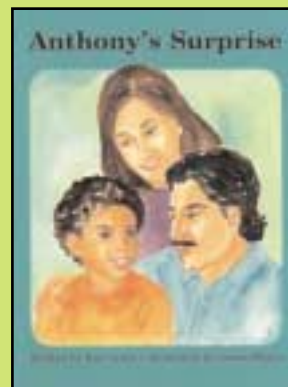
Recommended Reading

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

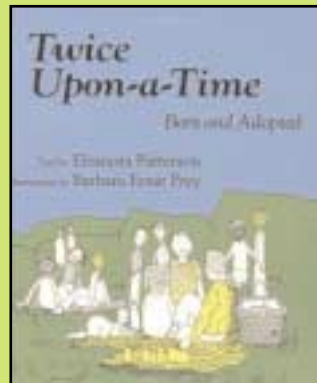
his parents' guidance, he learns that as long as he loves himself, it doesn't matter what other people think. If they say mean things, it's because they have difficulty meeting and accepting someone who is different from themselves. For ages 4 to 11.



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

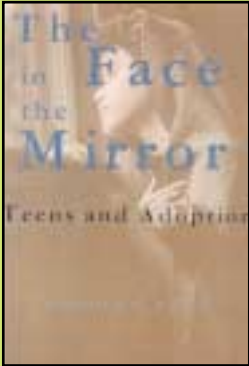
who needed a family. So she traveled the world, across the ocean and over the mountains, to find Mary. She's *THE BEST SINGLE MOM IN THE WORLD*. For ages 3 to 8.



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



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.



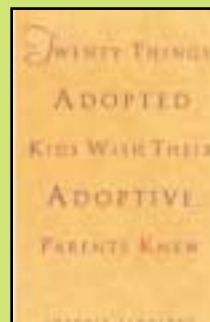
Secret Thoughts of An Adoptive Mother
by Debra Stewart Peterson
What a great book! *SECRET THOUGHTS OF AN ADOPTIVE MOTHER* reveals the hidden emotions that so many adoptive parents are afraid or embarrassed to share, believing they are alone in feeling this way—feelings of amusement

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



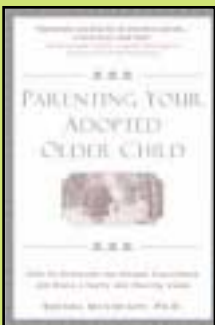
Mr. Rogers—Let's Talk About It: Adoption
by Fred Rogers

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 YOUR 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



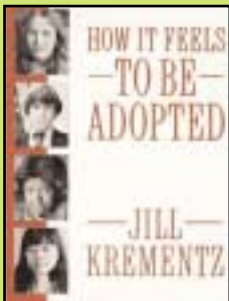
Adoption is for Always
by *Linda Walvoord Girard*
When Celia learns that she is adopted, she is upset. Why did her birthmother give her up? Did she do something wrong? Her parents' explanation of adoption helps to reassure her. **ADOPTION IS FOR ALWAYS** is a comforting book for children to understand

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.

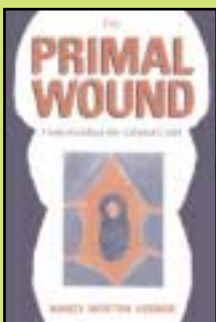


How It Feels To Be Adopted
by *Jill Krentz*
This book is widely recommended, and with good reason—it's one of the best. In it, nineteen youngsters describe **HOW IT FEELS TO BE ADOPTED**. These young people explain, from an adolescent point of view, both the good and the bad

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