

Tips for Adoption

1. Have the caseworker or the child's therapist share about the termination of the biological parents' rights with the child. This is important as you don't want the child to identify you as responsible for the end of that relationship
2. When considering names, keep in mind some children want to establish a new identity with a new name and others have a strong attachment to their current name. Invite older children into the discussion.
3. Celebrate welcoming the newly adopted child into the family with words and activities that help *all* children in the family know they are truly valued and beloved family members.
4. Talk to family and friends about the adoption process. Help them understand how to help *all* children in the family know they are valued and beloved family members.
5. Recognize loss may be part of adoption for all the children involved. For the child being adopted, adoption into your family means permanent separation from the biological family as well as a permanent family. For children already in the family, adoption means a change in relationships, status (youngest, only girl, etc) and time with you. Give children freedom to share their feelings. Acknowledge these feelings and help children move forward together.
6. Consider family counseling, especially if multiple children are involved or there is significant change in family dynamics.
7. Consider finding mentors for children and adults so everyone can share feelings with a safe, neutral person.