

Adoption Information Services, Inc. NEWSLETTER

Yes! You Can Adopt
Usually in 3-12 Months

Issue 8

AIS is proud to have helped place more than 2,000 newborns with loving parents.

How To Handle Public Reaction to Interracial Adoption

Here are a few points regarding Interracial Adoption, and how the world will view you: There's the "Savior Syndrome" – The world "praises parents" who save a child from a horrible destiny. From the parent's point-of-view they are seen as "how lucky they are to have been given the privilege of parenting this child." The parents must have given thought to how the "different" child would fit into their lives, their families, their communities and their love.

Positive Methods for Dealing with the Public and Community

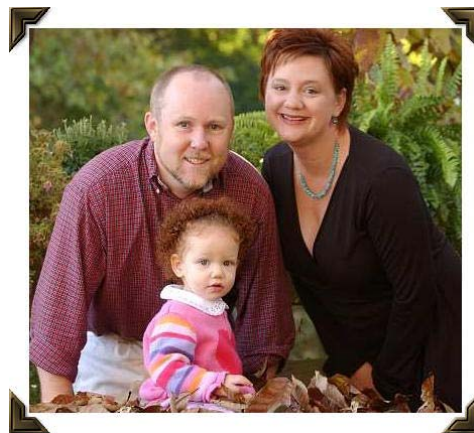
- a. Utilize **positive language** about adoption and racial/ethnic differences.
- b. **Educate the child's immediate community** on how they can accept and support differences.
- c. At home, celebrate each family member's uniqueness. Embrace the mystery and excitement of the newness, difference and unique qualities of their child.
- d. Expose the child to **cultural/racial history, language, customs and traditions.**
- e. Help them to be **proud inside and out.**
- f. Participate in a **support group** with other adoptive families like ourselves.
- g. Form **close friendships** (communities within those groups for future continued contact).
- h. Send children to **culture camps.**
- i. Associate and **form friendships with people of your child's culture, race or ethnic heritage.**

Does My Child Have to Look Like Me?

The laws and policies surrounding adoption in this country have generally structured adoption in imitation of biology, and reflect widespread and powerful feelings that **parent-child relationships will work best between biological "likes"** and related fears that parents will not be able to truly love and nurture biological "unlikes."

Though looks are hopelessly superficial, the adoptive parents desperately want to fall in love with the stranger who will become their child. (Adoption is like a blind date... a permanent one). Whether or not you like your own looks, they are familiar, something safe. It's almost as if looking alike will ensure a degree of family cohesiveness. Look-alike families are accustomed to belonging together, but families who do not match – are seen as curious groupings of individuals.

In transracial adoption we are embracing a child that came out of someone else's body, out of another culture, and incorporating them into ours. During the first stages of being a family by transracial adoption, you are aware of how different you look from your child. As time goes on, and the emotional cement of family has become hardened, we feel unified as a mixed family (even though the outside world

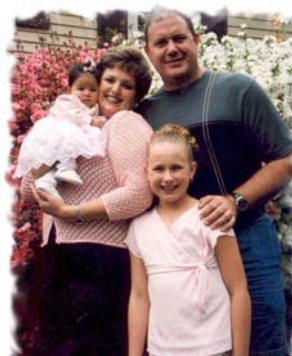


does not always see us as belonging together). Looking nothing like my child is cause for questions, looks and opportunities to educate the public. This should not be taken as a threat. We are a family. We, quite naturally, take delight as we watch environmental influences form and shape our child into someone whose personalities, habits and other qualities resemble our own.

Notable Facts

Outside perceptions of transracial adoption may include:

- ✓ This newborn/child is different from others
- ✓ This newborn is not as desirable since the parents have a different heritage
- ✓ For **children of color** with white parents the stigma is **highly visible.**



For more information, visit our website at www.adoptioninfosvcs.com.

Request our educational DVD. A recording of one of our many seminars, it's packed with valuable information on the entire adoption process. It's free of charge, so get one for your friends, family, minister--anyone who might be interested in learning more about the adoption process



Adoption Information Services
1840 Old Norcross Road
Suite 400
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
Tel: 770 339-7236
aisteam@adoptioninfosvcs.com