

# Adoption Information Services, Inc. NEWSLETTER

Yes! You Can Adopt  
Usually in 3-12 Months

Issue 9

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

## Talking to Young Children About Their Adoption

When is the appropriate time to begin telling young children about their adoption? Here are a few points to help you work through this process:

1. You may be asking yourself the age old question – when do I have to tell them? It's their story, not a dreaded one time task that you do when you determine they are old enough to understand.
2. Formulate a story on how your child joined your family. The story can become more complex as the child matures.
3. Tell their story early and often. No, they are not “your little adopted child.” But, they came into your family through adoption and they need to hear that in a positive context.
4. Write and use pictures to make your child's special adoption storybook. (If you don't feel that talented find a children's book about adoption and use that to help tell your story).



## Positive Adoption Language

Choose the following positive language instead of the negative language that helps permeate the myth that adoption is *second best*. By using positive adoption language, you'll reflect the true nature of adoption, free of innuendo.

Words not only convey facts, they also evoke feelings. Positive adoption language can stop the spread of misconceptions such as these. By using positive adoption language, we educate others about adoption. We choose emotionally “correct” words over emotionally-laden words. We speak and write in a positive language with the hopes of impacting others, so that this language will someday become the norm.

Positive Language	Negative Language
Birthparent	Real parent, natural parent
Biological parent	Natural parent
Biological father	Begetter
Parent	Adoptive parent
Birth child	Own child
My child	My adopted child
Child with special needs	Hard-to-place child
Child from abroad	Foreign child
Was adopted	Is adopted
Make an adoption plan; choose adoption	Give up, give away child
Child entrusted to adoptive parents	Child placed for adoption
To parent	To keep
Born to unmarried parents	Illegitimate
Waiting child	Adoptable child
International adoption	Foreign adoption
Adoption triad	Adoption triangle
Permission to sign a release	Disclosure
Search, locate	Track down parent
Making contact with	Reunion
Terminate parental rights	Give up
Court termination	Child taken away
The adoption	The placement



### Notable Facts

Remember to Use the Positive Adoption Language:

- ✓ When meeting with community and church groups
- ✓ When talking in front of your child and family members
- ✓ Throughout the course of your day



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For more information, visit our website at [www.adoptioninfosvcs.com](http://www.adoptioninfosvcs.com).

Request our educational DVD. A recording of one of our many seminars, it's a 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