

POSITIVE ADOPTION LANGUAGE

POSITIVE LANGUAGE

- **Placing your child with an adoptive family**
 - Making an adoption plan
 - Finding a family to parent your child
 - Arranging for an adoption
 - Entrusting your child to adoptive parents

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- **Deciding to parent the child**
 - Planning to raise the child

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- **Birthmother / Birthfather**
 - Birthparent / birthgrandparent
 - Biological mother / father / parent

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- **Adoptive Parent / Parents**
 - Mom / dad / mother / father

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- **My Birthson / Birthdaughter**
 - The term that a birthmother uses to refer to her biological child that is being raised by adoptive parents

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- **Adoptee**
 - Adopted person
 - Person who joined their family through adoption

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- **Child born to unmarried parents**

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- **Meeting between adoptee and his / her birthparents**

NEGATIVE LANGUAGE

- **Giving up your child for adoption**
 - Giving away your child
 - Relinquishing your child
 - Putting your child up for adoption

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- **Deciding to keep the child**

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- **Real Parents**
 - "Real" or "natural" mother / father
 - "Real" or "natural" parents / grandparents

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- **Not the "real" parents**

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- **My "real" or "natural-born" child**

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- **Adopted child**
(when speaking of an adult)

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- **Illegitimate child**

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- **Reunion**

Patricia Irwin Johnston, Perspectives Press
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