

Positive Adoption Language

The language used to talk about adoption will impact how it is perceived. Below is a list of terms that can be helpful in reducing the stigma and misconceptions that surround adoption.

POSITIVE

- ❖ Planning an adoption for your child
- ❖ Choosing an adoptive family for your child
- ❖ Placing the child in an adoptive home
- ❖ Birthmother, birthfather, birthparent
- ❖ Adoptive parents
- ❖ Birth child, child by birth
- ❖ Our child, child by adoption
- ❖ Deciding to parent the child, Parenting
- ❖ Child

NEGATIVE

- ❖ Giving your child away
- ❖ Putting your child up for adoption
- ❖ Giving up your child
- ❖ Real mother, natural mother, real father, natural father
- ❖ Not the real parents
- ❖ Real child, natural child
- ❖ Adopted child (always referring to the child as “adopted”)
- ❖ Keeping the child
- ❖ Illegitimate Child

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