

# ADOPTTEENS

MEET FRIENDS. MAKE CHANGE.



THINK  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT  
ADOPTION?

YOU  
MIGHT BE  
SURPRISED!

Read on to discover the myths vs reality  
of adoption

# GET CLEAR ON ADOPTION

## What is adoption?

Adoption is when a child is either removed from a parent because they cannot currently provide safe care for their child or the parent decides they are currently unable to care for their child.

A child is only adopted after all other avenues for support have been explored such as other family members. It is a very serious decision that has lifelong impacts for all involved.

Even when a parent decides they cannot care for their child it is not because they do not want their child or do not love them. It is usually because a parent can't physically.

Families come in all different forms; from single parents, step parents, same sex parents, to children living with other relatives, such as grandparents or aunts. Adoption is no different, we are just another type of family. So please be careful when making judgements about someone's family because you don't know the journey they have been on, or are currently on

### Did you know?

In 2023,

**2,960**

children were adopted



## Open and Closed adoption

No two adoption journeys are the same, and each experience is unique to the child and their family.

In closed adoptions, which were more common in the past, children and their birth families had no contact after the adoption.

In more modern open adoptions, children may have some contact with their birth families, often through letters or occasional meetings. This approach helps many adoptees better understand their life history and identity.



# THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ADOPTION + FOSTERING

Understanding the difference between adoption and fostering is important, as misconceptions can be hurtful.

## Adoption

- ✓ Adoptive parents become the child's legal parents.
- ✓ Adoption is only ever considered when it is not possible for the child to be cared for or kept safe by the birth family.
- ✓ Adoption is permanent, when a child is adopted they are adopted for life.
- ✓ Sometimes the child's first name is changed but it often remains the same. The child's surname is always changed to that of their adoptive parents.

## Fostering

- ✓ The child's birth parents still hold some parental responsibility.
- ✓ Primarily used as a short-term measure to support parents through difficulties.
- ✓ Some children stay in foster care until adulthood (long-term foster care).
- ✓ No name changes are made.

Fostering and adoption aren't the only permanency options, there are many others such as Special Guardianship and Residential care.

# HOW TO START A CONVERSATION

Stay away from personal questions, keep it generic



Ask if the person feels comfortable talking about adoption before diving in



Everyone feels differently about their childhood, remember that



It can take time to build trust and share things if you're adopted



If they don't want to talk about it, don't push it



It is ok to be curious, but it's not ok to assume



## Three things to avoid

**"Are you an orphan?"**

In adoption, the birth parents are usually still alive but couldn't take care of their child.



**"Do you know or see your real parents?"**

Not everyone is comfortable talking about their birth family.



**"So who are you REAL parents?"**

Adoptive parents are just as real as birth parents.



## Want to learn more?



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