

# The Importance of Positive Adoption Language



The way we speak, and the words we choose, say so much about what we think and value. When we use positive adoption language, we say that adoption is just another way to grow our family. The use of unconstructive language helps perpetuate the myth that adoption is second best.

By choosing to use positive adoption language, we educate others about adoption. By using positive adoption language, our children “hear” and then “speak” these words. We choose emotionally “correct” words over emotionally laden words. Adoption STAR chooses to speak and write in positive adoption language with the hopes of impacting others so that this language will be considered the norm. Learning these terms is a great way to begin your adoption journey.

## Positive language

Adoption triad  
Birth parent\*  
Birth child  
Born to unmarried parents  
Child placed for adoption  
Court termination  
Child with special needs  
Child from abroad  
Expectant parent\*\*  
International adoption  
Making contact with  
Make an adoption plan  
My child  
Parent  
Search  
Surrender / Terminate parental rights  
To parent  
Waiting child  
Was adopted

## Unconstructive language

Adoption triangle  
Real parent, natural parent  
Own child  
Illegitimate  
An unwanted child  
Child taken away  
Handicapped child, hard to place child  
Foreign child  
Real parent, natural parent  
Foreign adoption  
Reunion  
Give away  
Adopted child; Own child  
Adoptive parent  
Track down parents  
Give up  
To keep  
Adoptable child; Available child  
Is adopted

\* preferred term once someone makes an adoption plan. (Post-placement)

\*\* preferred term when someone is pregnant.

# The Adoption STAR Difference

There are differences between adoption agencies. It is important that you select an agency that you feel comfortable with and one that will provide you with the support and assistance you need.

This is your adoption journey ... selecting the right agency makes all the difference.

## *The Adoption STAR difference:*

- *Our approach is very personal. You'll never hear voicemail.*
- *The first step in your journey is education. We're here to help.*
- *We provide both domestic and international placement options.*
- *We provide pre and post adoption education and support for adoptive families, birth families and adoptees (childhood through adulthood).*
  - *We pride ourselves on the diversity of our families.*
  - *Our fees are consistent regardless of the infant's race.*
    - *Fees are based on a sliding fee scale.*
- *You do not pay a deposit toward your placement unless you are matched with an expectant parent or until placement occurs.*
- *We are authorized and licensed in more than one state, providing more opportunities for clients to adopt.*
- *You will be provided your own agency representative known as a Family Advocate who will offer you support and compassion throughout the process.*
- *We don't make promises about time frames or about adopting. We believe in the sharing of honest and helpful communication.*
- *We view our relationship with our clients as life-long, just like parenthood. Our adoptive families and children are connected with us into the future and are provided with post adoption educational opportunities and support.*
- *Our support groups and mentoring program keep you linked to other adoptive families. This is another learning and sharing opportunity for you.*
- *Our professional staff is knowledgeable and passionate about adoption.*

**We invite you to make all the difference . . .**

*Choose an agency that works in the best interest of children . . .*

**Join the Adoption STAR family!**