



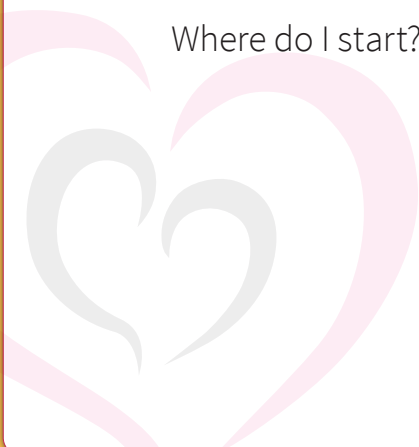
How Will Adoption Affect my Baby?

The Effects of Adoption on Children



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Introduction



Are you pregnant and considering adoption? Right now, you may be scared and overwhelmed. You may be wondering, “Is this the best choice for my baby’s sake?” and “How will this decision affect my child?” Take a deep breath. Adoption can bring positive outcomes to both you and your child.

As an expectant/birth mother, you want to be sure you are making the best possible choice for your child. Not only this, but you want your baby to live the best possible life: one that is happy, stable, and secure. Adoption allows you to give your child this gift: loving parents, a safe and healthy home, and a future full of opportunities. Adoption, for this reason, is a very positive choice.

At **Adoptions With Love**, we want you to know that choosing adoption is a courageous, selfless decision. It means you love your child enough to give your child the life that he or she deserves, a life that you may not be able to provide at this time.

Adoption benefits all who are touched by it in some shape or form. Through adoption, you can pursue your dreams and grant your child the opportunity to fulfill his or her own. This positive choice can give you the chance to finish school, go to college, or accomplish your lifelong goals. Most importantly, adoption can give you the knowledge that you have made your child’s life possible.

Through adoption, your child will thrive in a stable, loving environment full of the resources that he or she needs. Your child will be raised by an adoptive family who can provide both emotionally and financially for your child. As an expectant/birth parent, you can choose the adoptive parents for your child and get to know them if you wish.

Adoptions With Love has created this eBook to answer all of the pending questions you may have regarding the effects of adoption on your child. In the following pages, we will discuss the impact of adoption, the experience of the adopted child, and the birth parent-child relationship.



What will my child think of me?

Many expectant/birth parents worry that their children will grow up with feelings of anger or sadness. Many feel that their children will only have negative feelings about their adoption and their birth parents. While we cannot speak for all adopted children, **Adoptions With Love** has found that this is rarely the case. Adoptees who are now young adults continuously express to us how grateful they are for their birth parents' choice and the opportunities that have stemmed from it.

When you make the decision to place your baby for adoption, you are choosing to give your child the gift of life – a fulfilling life that perhaps you cannot offer at this time. This is never an easy decision to make. As much as you would like to parent your child, you know that you are not ready to have a baby. Your child deserves the best. You have weighed your options and truly believe that adoption will bring the best outcomes to your child as he or she grows. It takes a strong person to recognize this.

This will all be explained to your child as he or she grows. While it may not always be easy, your child will likely come to understand your choice. Whether you choose an open or closed adoption plan, know that you will always be a part of your child. Your story will be a part of your child's story. You will never be forgotten.



Adoption is Positive

Through adoption, your child will thrive in a stable, loving environment full of the resources that he or she needs.



How will my child feel about being adopted?



It is important to remember that making an adoption plan is a very special way of showing how much you love your child. You love your child so much that, by choosing adoption, you are choosing to put his or her needs above your own. You want your child to live a life and future full of opportunities. Adoption allows you to give that to your child.

When children are raised knowing that they are adopted from the very beginning, they are able to form a special bond with their adoptive parents. Together with their adoptive families, they learn to understand their situation positively and constructively. Over time, they are able to develop an appreciation for their adoption, where they came from, and the beautiful life they have because of it. Today, over 97 percent of adopted children over age five know they are adopted. Nine out of ten of these children have positive feelings about their adoption experience.

Adoption can be an emotional journey for growing children. As they become teenagers, many adoptees experience feelings of anger or abandonment, not understanding why they were placed for adoption. As they mature, however, most adoptees come to realize and accept their birth parent's choice.



Understanding Adoption

Most children who grow up knowing they are adopted come to appreciate their birthmothers' choice and the life they have because of it.



Who will adopt my child?

By considering adoption for your baby, you are putting your child's needs first. You want to give your child a safe home, a healthy life, a successful future. Most of all, you want to find a devoted adoptive family who will love and cherish your child throughout life.

You may be wondering who this adoptive family will be. Who are adoptive families, and how will you know that one can provide all that you want for your child?

As an expectant mother, you likely have a good idea in your mind of what type of home and parents your child should have. You may want your child to have siblings, two parents, or even a dog. You may want your child to grow up under certain religious beliefs or with a family of a certain ethnicity. These are all choices that you can make for your child when you design your adoption plan.

At **Adoptions With Love**, we understand how important it is to find the right family for your baby. We know that above all, you desire a family who will love and support your child mentally, emotionally, physically, and financially over the years. We wish these things for your baby, too.

That is why every waiting family at our adoption agency is carefully screened and interviewed before they start the adoption process. Over the course of several months, our trained social workers get to know these families to ensure they are fully ready and able to commit to a child for life.

All of the waiting families at **Adoptions With Love** express a deep longing for the joys of parenthood. Many struggle with infertility and are not able to have biological children, while others are same-sex couples and single prospective parents hoping to adopt. Adoption serves as a beautiful and fulfilling way to complete their families.

Our adoptive families are especially grateful for you and your desire to make an adoption plan. While they excitedly wait to become parents, they empathize with your brave and heartfelt choice. No matter what you decide in the end, our adoptive families will always respect your decision.





Will my child live a normal life?



In your heart, you may believe that adoption is the most positive option for you and your baby. However, you may be scared that making an adoption plan will prevent your child from living a normal life. You may have pending questions such as, “Will adoption cause problems for my child?” or “Will my child be treated differently because of my choice?”

You may be wondering what it is like to grow up adopted. Is it different from being raised in a traditional family? As an expectant mother contemplating adoption, it is important to know that giving your child a life through adoption does not mean you are giving your child a life less worthy. In fact, studies have shown that adopted children grow up as happy and healthy as their peers. Of course, adoptees have certain experiences and feelings that are unique to being adopted, but all in all, they often thrive throughout childhood and as adults.

In many instances today, adopted children have more advantages and opportunities than non-adopted children. As young children, for example, they are more likely to be read to, sung to, or told stories to every day by their adoptive parents. They are also more likely to eat dinner with their family six or more days a week and participate in extracurricular activities at school. These experiences are important for a child’s development and well-being. For adopted children in particular, these experiences can lead to healthy relationships, life achievements, and a stronger sense of self.

The majority of adult adoptees are happy and healthy. Most come to a point in life where they stop identifying themselves as an “adoptee” or defining their lives by this sole characteristic. As an expectant/birth mother, you can rest assured that your child will grow up with the same (or better) life experiences as any other child.



A Happy & Healthy Life

Adoptees are more likely to have positive experiences in their homes and typically grow up as healthy and happy as their non-adopted peers.



How will I know my child is doing well?

If you choose to make an adoption plan with **Adoptions With Love**, you will always have the opportunity to know how your child is doing and growing. You can do this through our letter and picture program, or by designing an open or semi-open adoption plan.

Letter and Picture Program:

A letter and picture program provides you with regular updates of your child. Even if you are in a closed adoption arrangement, you can still access photos of your child and letters from his or her adoptive family if you wish. These are kept safely at the agency so that if and when you are ready, they are always here for you. For expectant/birth parents preferring a less identifying adoption plan, this option is a great way to gain peace of mind regarding your child's health.



Choosing the Right Family:

Choosing an adoptive family for your child is one way you can be sure your child is faring well. Studies have shown that over two-thirds of birth mothers who choose an adoptive family express lower levels of grief and regret, and higher levels of relief and comfort than those who did not make this loving choice.

Open Adoption:

Your relationship with your child does not have to end after his or her adoption placement. Open adoption is an option that you will have as you begin to design an adoption plan. It can allow you to have a loving relationship with your child after the adoption is finalized. This means that you can maintain contact with your child and his or her adoptive family through email, texting, phone calls, social media, or even face-to-face visits. **Adoptions With Love** can help you design the open adoption plan that is most comfortable for you.



Will open adoption be good for my child?

Open adoption allows you to continue a relationship with your child and his or her adoptive family. Some expectant/birth parents worry this relationship may complicate an adoption. Others feel it is in the best interest of the child.

Keeping direct contact with your child and his or her adoptive family is one of the best ways to know your child is doing well. This type of open adoption arrangement has also proven to be one of the most beneficial forms of adoption today. Adopted children in open adoption arrangements are generally satisfied with their relationships with their birth parents. By being able to contact their birth family, adoptees can:

- Understand and come to terms with their adoption
- Get answers to questions their adoptive parents cannot answer
- Have physical touchstones to identify where they got certain traits
- Have genetic, medical, family and personal information to aid identity development
- Have positive feelings towards their birth mothers

There are hundreds of reasons your child may want contact with you in the future. Even if you do not want an open adoption at this point in time, you can have the option of reaching out to your child later down the road. At **Adoptions With Love**, we believe this is your right.



Benefits of Open Adoption

Keeping in touch with your child and his or her adoptive family can truly benefit your child's identity, confidence, and sense of self.



Am I making the right choice?

One of the most common questions we hear from expectant/birth parents is “Am I making the right choice?” Ultimately, the right answer will come from within you. The right answer is what you believe will give your baby the happiest, healthiest life. Only you can make this decision. This is your choice.

The fact that you are here considering the choice of adoption means that you care about what is best for your baby. It takes a selfless, thoughtful person to come as far as you have.

If you choose to make an adoption plan for your child, know that you are making an incredible decision. Through adoption, you are giving your child a safe, loving and permanent home. You are giving your child a nurturing family. You are giving your child the greatest gift of all, a life that he or she will love.

“ My birth mother gave me the greatest gift any woman could give her child: she gave me a life that I love. She wanted to give me a happy life with parents who would love and care for me, and that is exactly what she did. I have had the greatest life that any child could ever hope for. My parents are perfect and my sister and I continue to see their love for one another grow, which is an incredible example for any children to see and hope for in their own futures. I have the best sister in the world that is always there for me and I could not live without her. I have been blessed with my family. My birth mother told me that they were the first portfolio she looked at and she knew they were the right ones to raise me. ”

– A young woman adopted through
Adoptions With Love, age 20



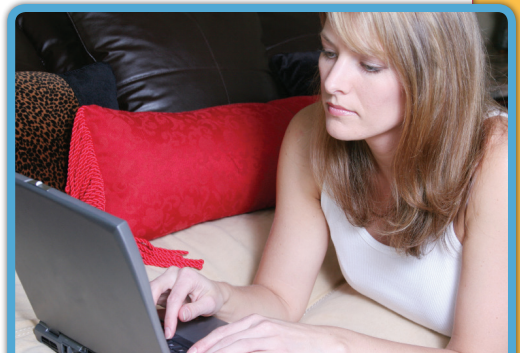


Where do I start?

Placing your baby for adoption may be the hardest decision you will ever have to make. It may also be the best thing you will ever do for your child. You do not have to make this decision alone.

If you are facing an unplanned pregnancy and have questions about adoption, do not hesitate to call us at 800-722-7731 or **text us confidentially at 617-777-0072**. **Adoptions With Love** is here for you at any time of day, any day of the week to discuss your options and help you make the perfect adoption plan.

Here, you can rest assured that every decision made along the way will be made by you, in the best interest of your child. That is our mission at **Adoptions With Love**: to find the best possible home for each child, while offering lifelong support to courageous expectant/birth mothers like you who have made the positive choice of adoption. We are always here for you.



Our Promise to You

Adoptions With Love makes a lifelong commitment to every child and family that works with us. We are always here for you!