

## Positive Adoption Language

We often find that language dictates meaning in ways that we are unaware. There are subtleties of meaning, of values and of attitudes that come across in the words we choose to use, or not use. This is especially true with adoption language. Notice the different connotations the words below denote.

### NEGATIVE/INCORRECT MESSAGE

She gave her baby up.  
She didn't want her baby.  
She put her baby out for adoption.

He is illegitimate.

She is the child's 'real' parent.

They are not her 'real' parents.

Which ones are their real kids?  
Which are their own children?

Was it a foreign adoption?

He's a handicapped or troubled child.

"Bio kids" "(Natural Parents)

Is adopted

### POSITIVE ADOPTION MESSAGE

She was unable to parent.  
She made an adoption plan.

His parents were unmarried.

She is the child's birth parent.

They are her adoptive parents.

The oldest children were born.  
into the family or why do you ask?

Was theirs an international adoption?

He is a child from a hard place or a child who experience  
trauma.

Isn't everyone biological? Natural?

Was adopted