

POSITIVE ADOPTION LANGUAGE

What we say and the words we use, communicate a lot about our values. The conscious and consistent use of positive adoption language affirms that adoption is as valid a way to build a family as birth.

Positive Language

Adoption triad

Biological parent

Birth child

Birth father / mother

Birth parent

Born to unmarried parents

Child from abroad

Child placed for adoption

Child with special needs

Court termination

Make an adoption plan /choose adoption

Intercountry adoption

Interracial

Making contact with

My child

Parent

Search

To parent

Waiting child

Negative Language

Adoption triangle

Natural / real parent

Own child

Real / Natural father / mother

Real parent

Illegitimate

Foreign child

Unwanted child

Handicapped child

Child taken away

Give away / give up

Foreign adoption

Mixed race

Reunion

Adopted child

Adoptive parent

Track down parents

To keep

Adoptable child; Available child

This information courtesy of **Holt International Children's Services** P.O. Box 2880 (1195 City View) Eugene, Oregon 97402, USA Phone: (541) 687-2202 Fax: (541) 683-6175 Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Pacific Time