



Positive Adoption Language

Terms to Avoid

Preferred Terminology

Real, natural parents

Birthparents, birthmother, birthfather

Real, natural children,
children of your own

Biological children

Give up or put up for
adoption, adopt out

Place for adoption, adoption plan

Keep the child

Choose to parent

Available children

Adoptable children

Foreign adoption

International adoption

Hard-to-place children

Waiting children

Mixed

Biracial

Biracial family

Transracial family

Handicapped

Disabled

The child is adopted

The child was adopted

Adopted child

Child