

Benefits of Open Adoption Agreements & Open Adoption Relationships

Child

- **Fuller picture of history in order to develop positive identity**
- Have access to ethnic and cultural history
- Knowledge about siblings and other family members
- Secrecy, therefore shame, is reduced
- Ability to resolve feelings of rejection
- Reduction of “fantasy” parent
- Uncertainly resolved
- Opportunity to deal with guilt
- Opportunity for direct contact when child is developmentally ready

Birth Parents

- **Opportunity to contribute to the positive identity of child**
- Potential for lifelong information about their child
- Potential to reduce feelings of guilt
- As contact and/or relationship progresses, birth parent will be a valuable, and potentially only, person who can give critical recent and historical information (information about child or other family members)
- Chance for a second, third, or more chance to be a positive role model for their child
- Uncertainty resolved
- Comfort that child is safe
- Opportunity to resolve mental health issues as a result having access to information about their child

Adoptive Parents

- **Opportunity to use knowledge to contribute to child’s positive identity**
- Parenting advantage to access “nature” influences
- Have a resource for medical information
- Have a resource for educational history
- Have a resource for mental health history
- Have a bases to discuss potential risks for drug or alcohol or other addiction risks

- Reduction of “fantasy family” for child
- Ability to resolve fears of uncertainty
- Potential to know how healthy and stable birth parents are when child chooses to have contact without needing parents involvement
- Birth family can help expose child to culture and instill cultural knowledge and pride
- Some control over process
- Opportunity to really understand birth parents life—therefore, understand child more fully
- Ability to show their child that they value the birth parent/family, therefore, in extension, value the child
- On-going choice in changing contact to fit the needs of the child and the health of birth parent
- Abundance of “teachable” moments with their child, when coordinating and negotiating relationships between families

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