

Suggestions & Tools to Successful Open Adoption Agreements

- Provide OAA information to birth parents early in process
- Provide OAA information to adoptive parents early in process
- Have examples of open adoption agreements that are working
- Have examples of open adoption relationships that are working
- Ask birth parents to write or record their story of why relinquished—the story—
—record the decision was made out of love, in the child’s best interest—stick to the truth.
- Within the OAA, stay away from contact on emotionally charged dates (BD, Christmas, Mothers Day, Fathers Day)
- Counseling

Tools to support the open adoption relationship in the best interest if the child

- A script—the child’s story/the truth/developmentally appropriate
- Family movie—visual way to show the commitment of all to make the arrangement work
- Adults to spend time together with out the child to strengthen their relationship. This will give the birth parents and adoptive parents an opportunity to show they have the best interest of the child as a priority. They may learn that they have more similarities then differences.