



BUSTED!

Common Myths & Fears **(adopting parents have)** ***About Open Adoption***

A Lifetime Adoption Webinar

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Top 3 Open Adoption Myths



*"Our daughter's birthmom
is a pure jewel to us."*

Congratulations to
your new little family,
SCOTT & MEREDITH!

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*"Open adoption really only
benefits the child's
birth mother."*

**"Open adoption is
confusing for a child."**

*"Open adoption would mean
I'm not completely 'mom' or
'dad' to my child."*



Defining Open Adoption

Open adoption essentially means:

- *Adoption records remain 'open,' as opposed to sealed, as with closed adoptions.*
- *You know where your child began.*
- *Your child's birth mother or birth family knows who adopts the child.*

Options in Open Adoption

With open adoption a Birth Mother may:

- *Choose her child's adoptive parent(s).*
- *Get to know the adoptive parents before.*
- *Decide how things go at the hospital, or how the transition will go for the child.*
- *Know what happens with her child after the adoption, i.e. through an on-going relationship with or updates from the adoptive family.*

With open adoption an Adoptive Parent may:

- *Indicate their preferences or search criteria before being chosen by a birth mother.*
- *Be part of the hospital experience, if allowed.*
- *Become aware of everything known about a particular birth mother, her background, and her current situation, BEFORE moving forward.*



Myth #1:

“Open adoption only benefits the birth mother.”

Benefits of Open Adoption for Adoptive Parents:

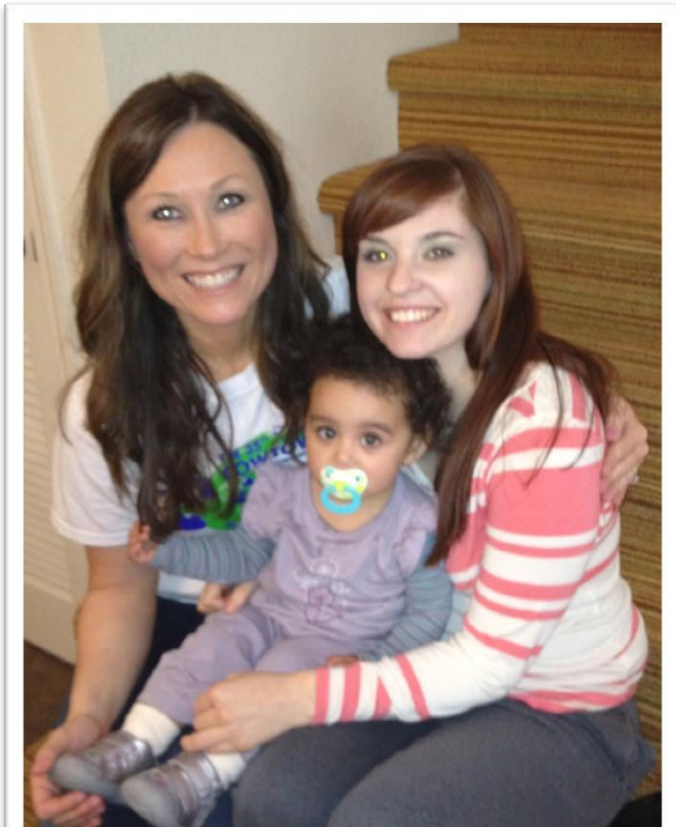
- A birthmom is less likely to change her mind
- Medical history and prenatal records
- Opportunity to learn answers to questions your child may ask later
- Create a connection that is right for all involved
- Design a plan for future contact
- You'll come to care about what happens to your child's birth mother after the adoption



TRUTH: *More often, we hear from adoptive parents who wish they could be MORE in touch with their child's birth mother after the adoption.*

Myth #2:

“Open adoption will confuse my child.”



From a woman raised through closed adoption:

“I always knew I was adopted. I was proud to be “chosen.” I had two loving parents, a happy childhood, and many opportunities that I would have never had if I was not adopted. But here's the problem with closed adoption...if I had just known her from the beginning... the “GREAT MYSTERY” of “who is my birth mother” would never have been such a great mystery!

I would have known, through her communication with me over the years, that she loved me and did what was best for me.”

TRUTH: Open adoption takes the fantasy or unknown out of your child’s story. She can know why you were chosen to be her parents, and that she has many who love her and want the best for her.

Myth #2:

“Open adoption will confuse my child.”



Open Adoption Tip:

Start thinking of how you'll talk about adoption with your child, before you adopt.

Ask your child's birthmom what she'd like your child to call her, such as a nickname or by first name. This may come naturally as the child grows and learns his adoption story, or you may want a term of endearment right from the start.

As your child matures, he'll understand more about the people involved in his adoption.

TRUTH: Every child has a right to know their birth history, as age appropriate. Even if your child doesn't want a connection, as an adult, with his birthmom, he still may need or want access to medical history or reasons for the adoption.

Myth #3:

“Open adoption means I’m not completely ‘mom’ or ‘dad’.”

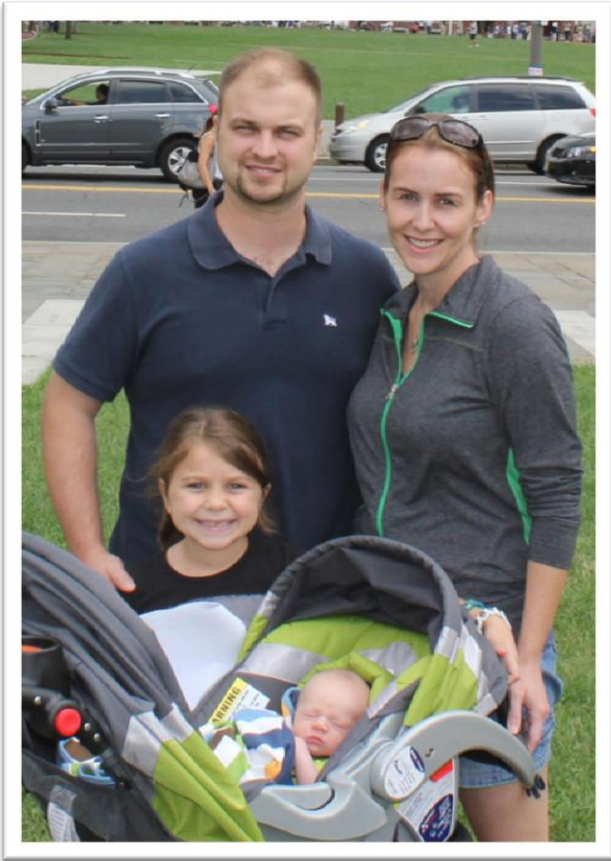


Reasons a Birthmom Will Choose You:

- She isn't looking to co-parent
- She wants you to be her child's full-time parents
- She wants you to be legally responsible for her child
- You present the life she wants her child to have
- She wants to be assured you will raise and accept her child, just as you would a biological child.

**TRUTH: A child you adopt becomes your own child, emotionally and legally.
You are the “real parents.”**

Tips to Get Past Common Fears of Open Adoption:



- Educate yourself about your choices as an adoptive parent
- Learn about adoption from a birthmom's point of view
- Get experience from people touched by open adoption

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