

Course Outline/Bibliography

Creating Relationship with Birth Parents in Open Adoption Even When It's Hard! (CE)

- Approximately 95% of domestic infant adoptions in the US have some degree of openness, so establishing and maintaining a relationship with our child's [birth parents](#) is relevant to most adoptive parents.
- The percentage is a little misleading because there is no universal definition of "open adoption".
- What makes an adoption an [open adoption](#)?
- What amount of openness is best for kids?
- Why is establishing a relationship hard?
- Tips for adoptive parents and birth parents who are struggling to establish a relationship.
- Socioeconomic differences between adoptive and birth families.
- Racial differences between adoptive and first parents.
- How to handle differences in parenting styles.
- One of the issues that I see come up is setting boundaries. For example, when to share pics on social networks, when to drop by for an unannounced visit, etc.
- Understanding our respective roles in our child's life.
- Feeling threatened by the birth mom's role or the adoptive parent's role.
- When is openness not advisable?

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Johnston, Patricia Irwin. *Adopting: Sound Choices, Strong Families*. Perspectives Press, 2008.

Lozier, Carol. *The Adoptive & Foster Parent Guide: How to Heal Your Child's Trauma and Loss*. Createspace, 2012.

Groza, Victor; Bosco-Ruggiero, Stephanie; Wassell, Gloria Russo. *Adopting Older Children: A Practical Guide to Adopting and Parenting Children Over Age Four*. New Horizon Press, 2014.