

30 WAYS TO CELEBRATE

National Adoption Awareness Month

NOVEMBER 2011



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1 Ask your library to display adoption books to commemorate National Adoption Awareness Month. Find editors' picks for great titles at adoptivefamilies.com/books.</p>	<p>2 Talk to your employer about offering an adoption assistance plan. Learn more at adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org and adoptivefamilies.com/topcompanies.</p>	<p>3 Invite local adoptive families to your home for hot chocolate and cookies or a multicultural buffet. Announce the event in your community newspaper.</p>	<p>4 Create a scrapbook with your child. Talk about significant events as you record them together. Get started with tips and tools at adoptivefamilies.com/scrapbooks.</p>	<p>5 Find out where your representatives at the state and national level stand on adoption issues. Write to them regarding your concerns.</p>
<p>6 Ask your local television or radio station to feature a waiting child in your state. See adoptuskids.org for more information.</p>	<p>7 Make an effort to help someone who is considering adoption. If you're a parent, tell them about the highs, the lows, the unforgettable moments. Tell them why you'd do it all over again!</p>	<p>8 Make an effort to help someone who is considering adoption. If you're a parent, tell them about the highs, the lows, the unforgettable moments. Tell them why you'd do it all over again!</p>	<p>9 Find an adult adoptee or a person of color—a coach, a teacher, or a babysitter—who can serve as a mentor for your child. Arrange for them to get together monthly.</p>	<p>10 Print the handout "8 Myths and Realities About Adoption" from adoptivefamilies.com/outreach. Distribute it in your community, school, and place of worship.</p>	<p>11 Give an adoption talk at school. See "How I Explained Adoption to the First Grade" at adoptivefamilies.com/school.</p>	<p>12 Pass along an adoption-related article to another adoptive parent or friend. While you're at it, buy your friend a subscription to <i>Adoptive Families</i> magazine.</p>
<p>13 Help your place of worship organize a service to give thanks for children. Find an adoption liturgy at adoptivefamilies.com/rituals.</p>	<p>14 Rent a DVD that portrays adoption in a positive light for your family to watch and discuss. Try <i>Hotel for Dogs</i>, <i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i>, or <i>The Tigger Movie</i>.</p>	<p>15 Print "Accurate Adoption Language" from adoptivefamilies.com/pdf/stylebook.pdf, and send it to your local newspaper.</p>	<p>16 Send a thank-you note to your child's teacher for allowing you to share adoption information. Send a copy to the principal.</p>	<p>17 Become an adoption advocate. Learn how at adoptivefamilies.com/pdf/adoptionadvocate.pdf.</p>	<p>18 Find a family adoption event near you—or add your own—at adoptivefamilies.com/calendar.</p>	<p>19 NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY! Courts across the country will finalize thousands of adoptions today. See nationaladoptionday.org for more information.</p>
<p>20 Start a tradition of taking a family photo each year on the same day, so you can see how everyone's changed. Share your shot with fellow AF readers at adoptivefamiliescircle.com/community.</p>	<p>21 Develop a family ritual to show thanks for your family and the special way you've found one another. See adoptivefamilies.com/rituals for ideas.</p>	<p>22 Join an adoptive parent support group. Find a group near you at adoptivefamilies.com/supportgroup.</p>	<p>23 Let your child contribute a portion of his allowance to an orphanage or foster family.</p>	<p>24 THANKSGIVING! Write a thank-you letter to the judge, social worker, or other professional who made your adoption happen.</p>	<p>25 Organize a holiday toy drive for children waiting for permanent families. Involve your child's class, team, or Scout group.</p>	<p>26 Send a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" letter to a media outlet or company, applauding or critiquing the way they address adoption. Send a copy to AF.</p>
<p>27 Together, light a candle in honor of your child's birthparents. Turn off the lights and hold hands as you watch the flame.</p>	<p>28 Make holiday crafts that incorporate designs from your child's heritage.</p>	<p>29 Write an account of a local family that has done something noteworthy for adoption, and send it to your local newspaper.</p>	<p>30 Make a donation in your child's or birthmother's name to an adoption-related charity or organization. See adoptivefamilies.com/givingback for a reader-nominated list.</p>			