



30 Ways to Celebrate National Adoption Awareness Month

NOVEMBER 2004

1 Ask your library to feature adoption books in an attractive display to commemorate National Adoption Awareness Month.

2 Find an adult adoptee to serve as a mentor for your child. Arrange for them to get together on a monthly basis.

3 Ask your local TV or radio station to broadcast a segment featuring a waiting child in your state.

4 Rent a video that portrays adoption in a positive light for your family to watch and discuss. Try *Immediate Family*, *Losing Isaiah*, or *Secrets and Lies*.

5 Pass along an adoption-related article or adoption-related item of interest to another adoptive parent or friend.

6 Find out where your representatives at the state and national levels stand on adoption issues. Write them regarding your concerns.

7 Print "Accurate Adoption Language" from the *Adoptive Families* Web site: www.adoptivefamilies.com/clip.php and send it to your local newspaper.

8 Call the Dave Thomas Foundation (1-888-ASK-DTFA) to request adoption posters to place in your community school, hospital, or other public place.

9 Send a donation to your favorite national or local adoption organization. See a list of worthy ones on www.adoptivefamilies.com

10 Invite local adoptive families to your home for hot chocolate and cookies. Announce the event in your community newspaper.

11 Start a scrapbook with your child. Talk about significant events as you record them together.

12 Donate a set of adoption books for children to your local elementary school. See suggestions here: www.adoptivefamilies.com/school.php.

13 Give an adoption talk at school. See "How I Explained Adoption to the First Grade" at www.adoptivefamilies.com/clip.php

14 Organize an adoption education program for students and teachers at your child's school. See "Can We Talk?" for a detailed game plan: www.adoptivefamilies.com/school.php

15 Send a thank-you note to your child's teacher for allowing you to share adoption information. Send a copy to the principal.

16 Start a tradition of taking a family photograph each year on the same day so you can see how the family has changed.

17 Develop a family ritual to show your thanks for and to celebrate your family and the special way you've found one another.

18 Find a family adoption event near you on www.adoptivefamilies.com. Attend an adoption event or conference with your family.

19 Print out "How to Become an Adoption Advocate" from the *Adoptive Families* Web site: www.adoptivefamilies.com/clip.php

20 NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY! Courts across the country will finalize adoptions today. See www.nationaladoptionday.org for more information.

21 Join an adoptive parent support group. Find one near you on the *Adoptive Families* Web site: www.adoptivefamilies.com/support_group.php

22 Ask your employer to feature a waiting child in the company newsletter. Promote the child in your community newspaper.

23 Help your place of worship organize a service to give thanks for children. For an adoption liturgy, see www.adoptivefamilies.com/articles.php?aid=151

24 Organize a holiday toy drive for children waiting for permanent families. Involve your child's class, team, or scout group.

25 THANKSGIVING! Write a thank-you letter to the judge, social worker, or other professional who made your adoption happen.

26 Together, light a candle in honor of your child's birthparents. Turn off the lights and hold hands as you watch the flames.

27 Send a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" letter to those who cover adoption in either a positive or negative light. Send a copy to *Adoptive Families*.

28 Plan craft activities or holiday ornaments incorporating designs from your child's heritage.

29 Ask your employer to offer an adoption assistance plan. For more information, see www.adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org

30 Write an account of a local adoptive family that has done something noteworthy for adoption and send it to the local newspaper.

