

LANGUAGE MATTERS

HANDY GUIDE TO EVOLVING ADOPTION LANGUAGE:

Outdated Language	Updated Inclusive Alternative
Real parent, natural parent	Birth or biological parent; first mother/father
Own child	My child; birth or biological child
Illegitimate	Born to unmarried parents
Give up, taken away	Change/transfer of parental rights
Give away, give up, put up	Choose/make an adoption plan
To keep	To Parent
Unwanted, Abandoned	Unplanned
Adoptable/available child	Child in need of a family
Adoptive parent	Parent (except when relevant to the story)
Foreign adoption	International/Intercountry adoption
To Track down	To locate, contact; meeting, making contact with; in reunion
Surrender	Voluntary surrender or Relinquishment (if not by choice)
Hard to place	“child with special needs”, “child with language differences; an older child...etc.”
Foreign adoption/child	International adoption/child from another country
Blood relatives	Birth/biological relatives
Ice/Meth/Crack Babies	Baby exposed to drugs before birth

*original language provided by Adoption Institute; revised by AABB, and always evolving.

AmerAsians Building Bridges is dedicated to provided training and resources that enrich the lives of adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents and their allies.

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