**Positive vs. Negative Adoption Terminology**

The word ***adoption*** can have many various connotations to different people. It is very helpful and encouraging to others for us to think of altering the way we talk about adoption. Historically, negative words have been used without much thought about how they come across. For example "to give up" or "to give away" may have the association of something one does not want. This is NOT true. Birth moms make the sacrificial, brave choice to place their baby with a family whom they have chosen out of love for their child.

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| --- | --- |
| Positive | Negative |
| Deciding to place for adoption | Giving away the baby |
| Deciding to place in an adoptive home | Gave up the baby |
| Deciding to parent | Keeping/kept the baby |
| Making an adoption plan | Putting up for adoption |
| Made an adoption plan | Adopted out |
| Birth Mother/Birth Father | Real Mom/Real Dad |
| Born to unmarried parents | Illegitimate |
| Birth parent/ relative | Real parent/relative parent |
| Parents/Mom/Dad | Adoptive parents/Adoptive Mom/Dad |
| My child | Adopted child/own child |

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