

Adults: Learn How to Talk About Adoption

You Mean Well, But...



Photos by Nova Development Corp. (Boy, Woman, Cart, Second Woman, Sign, Girl, Toddler)

Back in the day - let's say the 1940s and 50s - the topic of one's adoption usually was kept secret. Today, adoption is much less taboo, and international adoption in particular is much more common. But while many adopted kids take pride in their heritage, there still exists an element of privacy, which curious adults must respect.



Cindy, 15

Comments from Adopted Kids

By ANDY SHEN, with input from hundreds of kids

“Okay, some of you are intrigued by adoption. Get over it! Remember, this is kind of *personal* for my family and me.” *Cindy, 15*

“If I asked some of those questions, I would get in SO much trouble.” *Jenna, 12*

“Helloo. I’m standing right here. Excuuuse me.” *Émilie, 13*

“Some adults speak REALLY LOUDLY to me, because they think I don’t understand English. Oy vey!” *May Lin, 13*

“Try counting to 10 before asking questions about private things.” *Carlos, 13*

“OMG, those silly questions! It’s like asking what happened in the delivery room when you were born.” *Willia, 15*



And where in the world are YOU from?

Adoption Talking Tips

- ✓ Remember not to use the words “real mother” to refer to my birth mother. *Courtney, 13*
- ✓ Use the words “biological parent” instead of “natural parent.” *Jason, 14*

Learn more!

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