



Adoption Philosophy

🌿 The prime purpose of adoption is to find families for children who need them, so we hold an Adoptee-centric approach. We also believe that all triad members are permanently connected. What happens to one person in the adoption relationship affects all the other members of the triad. We call this Tri-relational Interconnectivity.

🌿 We believe in a Tri-spective Approach to adoption that values, respects, and considers the experiences, points of view, and needs of birth parents, adoptees, and adoptive parents. This Tri-spective Approach enables triad members to build a more complete picture of what it means to live as an adoptive family.

🌿 Love is essential but it is not enough to create a healthy, emotionally connected adoptive family. We encourage adoptive parents to practice Adoption Attuned Parenting®.

🌿 Adoptive families are as real as a biological family yet there are differences. At its core, adoption is a relationship affirmed by law and built through agreement, not biology. Its success depends on love, intentionality, integrity, and commitment. It should not be a transaction with an expectation of gratitude. Adoptive parents benefit as much as their children when they become a family.


🌿 Adoption is a difficult and heart-wrenching choice for a birth mother. She deserves respect and empathy before, during, and after the adoption. Birth fathers have rights that should be respected and like birth mothers, they have a significant influence on an adoptee's life. Adoptive parents validate their children by affirming that birth parents are an integral and permanent part of an adoptee's identity.


🌿 It is healthy and normal to grieve adoption-related losses. Triad members need a safe harbor to discuss their feelings.


🌿 Adoptees and their families—birth and adoptive—sometimes face attitudes that label, minimize, stereotype, shame, or ridicule. Support systems can play a vital role in assisting families with these and other realities of living as an adoptive family.

🌿 Adoption impacts the extended families of both adoptive and birth families. It brings coexisting gains and losses to all parties involved and influences how they respond within their families. Every member of the adoption constellation may experience issues around loss,

rejection, guilt and shame, identity, intimacy, and grief. These seven core issues* should be acknowledged and addressed.

 The unique challenges of being an adoptee spiral in and out of awareness, with varying levels of consciousness, understanding, and resolution as the adoptee matures.

 Adoptees can be attached and devoted to both their adoptive and biological families. Adoptees may long for their biological families and harbor fantasies about them. Adoptees may also have fantasies of having been birthed into their adoptive families. Creating the space to share these feelings and fantasies is a practice of unconditional love.

 Boundaries are important. Adoptees should decide when and with whom to share their adoption story. Adoptive parents should avoid oversharing and always respect their child's privacy.

Sharon Kaplan Roszia and Allison Davis Maxon, *Seven Core Issues in Adoption and Permanency: A Comprehensive Guide to Promoting Understanding and Healing in Adoption, Foster Care, Kinship Families, and Third Party Reproduction

Some of the concepts listed above were generally influenced by Daniel J. Siegel, *The Neurobiology of We*; Daniel J. Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson, *The Whole-Brain Child*; Pauline Boss, *Ambiguous Loss: Learning to Live with Unresolved Grief*, Association for Treatment and Training in the Attachment of Children (ATTACH), *Hope for Healing: A Parent's Guide to Trauma and Attachment*