

“Things I Learned during the Adoption Process”

- Things I wish someone had told me before we got started.
- What was the least complicated part? The most complicated?
- Difficulties we experienced while ‘outlining’ the kind of child we were seeking to adopt (race, gender, special needs, etc.). This is required in the home study report and adoption agency paperwork.
- Our thought process and justification for accepting the child referred to (or placed in) our family.
- Is there any way to prepare for, or prevent, setbacks and delays with paperwork, attorney issues, etc.?
- What has the cost been (emotional toll, financial, etc)?
- Did I (we) ever think about giving up?
- How much information did we provided to family members and friends about the process, financial costs, etc?
- How we handled negative comments and ‘advice’ from family members /friends about the adoption process (when things go wrong - referrals are lost, paperwork gets lost and needs refiling, etc.) without defending the adoption process as a whole.
- The paperwork (and expense) doesn’t end when the child comes home. (Post adoption reports, passport application, social security number application, court appearances to finalize/ratify adoption, change legal name.)
- questions/answers/comments