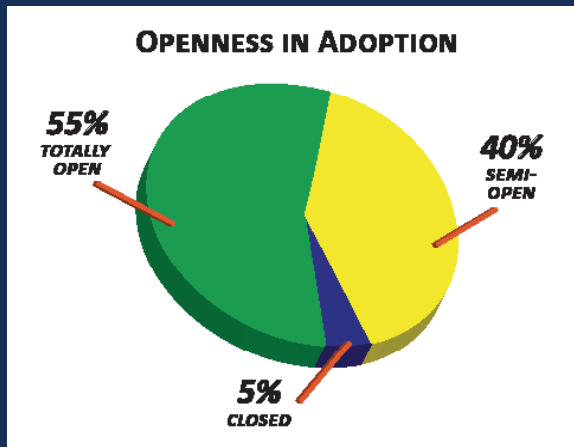




Open Adoption Advantages

Our definition of open adoption is that birth parents, adoptive parents, and the child exchange some level of contact after the placement of the child. Adoptions From The Heart was founded on the belief that open adoption benefits all parties.

Levels of Open Adoption



Totally Open:

All parties exchange some level of contact information and have contact with one another directly.

Semi-Open:

Contact happens through an intermediary (like an agency) and may include exchange of pictures, letters, and gifts, as well as visits a few times each year.

Closed Adoption:

The birth parents, adoptive parents, and child have no contact after placement.

THINK OF OPEN ADOPTION AS A DOOR:



- Promotes sensitivity for the feelings of all parties
- Allows birth parents to plan for their child's future
- Eases the feelings of loss for birth parents and child
- Lessens adoptee's need to fantasize about birth parents and where they came from
- Provides adoptees knowledge of their history and answers to their questions
- Allows for sharing of all known medical information, and ongoing exchange of information
- Reduces unknowns and fears of search for adoptees, adoptive and birth parents
- Eliminates the secrecy and shame associated with adoption
- Promotes shared respect between birth and adoptive parents
- Provides peace of mind for birth parents as they receive updates
- Encourages the sharing of information between birth and adoptive parents for the benefit of the child

Research Supporting Benefits of Open Adoption

- Openness aids with identity formation and leads **adoptees** to have more positive feelings about their adoption story and birth parents.
- Satisfaction increases among **adoptees** who have ongoing contact with their birth parents.
- Adoption-related grief is often less for **birth mothers** with open adoptions than those with closed adoptions.
- Open adoptions decrease adoptive parent's fears about continued contact as well as increase their empathy towards birth parents.

*Resources for more detailed research on openness in adoption:
The Evan B. Donaldson Institute
The Rudd Adoption Research Institute at UMass Amherst*