

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

30 WAYS TO CELEBRATE

National Adoption Awareness Month

NOVEMBER 2007



1 Ask your library to display adoption books to commemorate National Adoption Awareness Month. Find editors' picks for great titles at adoptivefamilies.com/books.

2 Talk to your employer about offering an adoption assistance plan. Learn more at adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org and adoptivefamilies.com/topcompanies.

3 Start a tradition of taking a family photo each year on the same day so you can see how everyone's changed. Then, share your shot with AF readers at familyalbum.adoptivefamilies.com.

4 Find an adult adoptee or a person of color—a coach, a teacher, or a babysitter—who can serve as a mentor for your child. Arrange for them to get together monthly.

5 Find out where your representatives at the state and national level stand on adoption issues. Write to them regarding your concerns.

6 Create a scrapbook with your child. Talk about significant events as you record them together. Get started with tips and tools at adoptivefamilies.com/scrapbooks.

7 Ask your local TV or radio station to feature a waiting child in your state. See adoptuskids.org for more information.

8 Make an effort to help someone who is considering adoption. If you're a parent, tell them about the highs, the lows, the unforgettable moments. Tell them why you'd do it all over again!

9 Print the handout "8 Myths and Realities About Adoption" from adoptivefamilies.com/outreach. Distribute it in your community, school, and place of worship.

10 Invite local adoptive families to your home for hot chocolate and cookies or a multicultural buffet. Announce the event in your community newspaper.

11 Spend some time celebrating your child's heritage. For recipes, activities, and other ideas, visit adoptivefamilies.com/heritage.

12 Let your child contribute a portion of his allowance to send clothes or toys to an orphanage or foster family.

13 Pass along an adoption-related article to another adoptive parent or friend. While you're at it, buy your friend a subscription to *Adoptive Families* magazine.

14 Give an adoption talk at school. See "How I Explained Adoption to the First Grade" at adoptivefamilies.com/school.

15 Send a thank-you note to your child's teacher for allowing you to share adoption information. Send a copy to the principal.

16 Print "Accurate Adoption Language" from the *Adoptive Families* website at adoptivefamilies.com/clip, and send it to your local newspaper.

17 NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY! Courts across the country will finalize thousands of adoptions today. See nationaladoptionday.org for more information.

18 Develop a family ritual to show thanks for your family and the special way you've found one another. See adoptivefamilies.com/rituals for ideas.

19 Find a family adoption event near you—or add your own—at adoptivefamilies.com/calendar.

20 Read "How to Become an Adoption Advocate" on the *Adoptive Families* Web site at adoptivefamilies.com/clip.

21 Join an adoptive parent support group. Find a group near you at adoptivefamilies.com/support_group.

22 THANKSGIVING! Write a thank-you letter to the judge, social worker, or other professional who made your adoption happen.

23 Rent a DVD that portrays adoption in a positive light for your family to watch and discuss. Try *Immediate Family*, *Losing Isaiah*, or *Secrets & Lies*.

24 Organize a holiday toy drive for children waiting for permanent families. Involve your child's class, team, or Scout group.

25 Send a thumbs up" or "thumbs down" letter to a media outlet or company, applauding or critiquing the way they address adoption. Send a copy to AF.

26 Help your place of worship organize a service to give thanks for children. Find an adoption liturgy at adoptivefamilies.com/rituals.

27 Together, light a candle in honor of your child's birthparents. Turn off the lights and hold hands as you watch the flames.

28 Plan craft activities to make holiday ornaments that incorporate designs from your child's heritage.

29 Make a donation in your child's or birthmother's name to an adoption-related charity or organization. See adoptivefamilies.com/givingback for a reader-nominated list.

30 Write an account of a local adoptive family that has done something noteworthy for adoption and send it to your local newspaper.

