

# 30 WAYS TO CELEBRATE

## National Adoption Awareness Month

N O V E M B E R 2 0 0 9

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>1</b> Start a tradition of taking a family photo each year on the same day, so you can see how everyone's changed. Share your shot with AF readers at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/community">adoptivefamilies.com/community</a>.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Ask your library to display adoption books to commemorate National Adoption Awareness Month. Find editors' picks for great titles at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/books">adoptivefamilies.com/books</a>.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Talk to your employer about offering an adoption assistance plan. Learn more at <a href="http://adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org">adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org</a> and <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/topcompanies">adoptivefamilies.com/topcompanies</a>.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Invite local adoptive families to your home for hot chocolate and cookies or a multicultural buffet. Announce the event in your community newspaper.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Find out where your representatives at the state and national level stand on adoption issues. Write to them regarding your concerns.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Ask your local television or radio station to feature a waiting child in your state. See <a href="http://adoptuskids.org">adoptuskids.org</a> for more information.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Create a scrapbook with your child. Talk about significant events as you record them together. Get started with tips and tools at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/scrapbooks">adoptivefamilies.com/scrapbooks</a>.</p>
<p><b>8</b> 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!</p>	<p><b>9</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Print the handout "8 Myths and Realities About Adoption" from <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/outreach">adoptivefamilies.com/outreach</a>. Distribute it in your community, school, and place of worship.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Spend some time celebrating your child's heritage. For recipes, activities, and other ideas, visit <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/heritage">adoptivefamilies.com/heritage</a>.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Help your place of worship organize a service to give thanks for children. Find an adoption liturgy at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/rituals">adoptivefamilies.com/rituals</a>.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Give an adoption talk at school. See "How I Explained Adoption to the First Grade" at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/school">adoptivefamilies.com/school</a>.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Pass along an adoption-related article to another adoptive parent or friend. While you're at it, buy your friend a subscription to <i>Adoptive Families</i> magazine.</p>
<p><b>15</b> Rent a DVD that portrays adoption in a positive light for your family to watch and discuss. Try <i>Hotel for Dogs</i>, <i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i>, or <i>The Tigger Movie</i>.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Print "Accurate Adoption Language" from <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/pdf/stylebook.pdf">adoptivefamilies.com/pdf/stylebook.pdf</a>, and send it to your local newspaper.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Send a thank-you note to your child's teacher for allowing you to share adoption information. Send a copy to the principal.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Develop a family ritual to show thanks for your family and the special way you've found one another. See <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/rituals">adoptivefamilies.com/rituals</a> for ideas.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Find a family adoption event near you—or add your own—at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/calendar">adoptivefamilies.com/calendar</a>.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Become an adoption advocate. Learn how at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/pdf/adoptionadvocate.pdf">adoptivefamilies.com/pdf/adoptionadvocate.pdf</a>.</p>	<p><b>21 NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY!</b> Courts across the country will finalize thousands of adoptions today. See <a href="http://nationaladoptionday.org">nationaladoptionday.org</a> for more information.</p>
<p><b>22</b> Join an adoptive parent support group. Find a group near you at <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/supportgroup">adoptivefamilies.com/supportgroup</a>.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Let your child contribute a portion of his allowance to an orphanage or foster family.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Organize a holiday toy drive for children waiting for permanent families. Involve your child's class, team, or Scout group.</p>	<p><b>25</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>26 THANKSGIVING!</b> Write a thank-you letter to the judge, social worker, or other professional who made your adoption happen.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Together, light a candle in honor of your child's birthparents. Turn off the lights and hold hands as you watch the flame.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Make holiday crafts that incorporate designs from your child's heritage.</p>
<p><b>29</b> Write an account of a local family that has done something noteworthy for adoption, and send it to your local newspaper.</p>	<p><b>30</b> Make a donation in your child's or birthmother's name to an adoption-related charity or organization. See <a href="http://adoptivefamilies.com/givingback">adoptivefamilies.com/givingback</a> for a reader-nominated list.</p>					