



TAPESTRY

What to Say vs. What Not to Say

Some helpful instruction about the words & phrases we use as well as the questions we ask regarding children and families involved in foster care and adoption.

BIRTH MOTHERS & BIRTH FAMILIES

<p><u>WHAT NOT TO SAY</u> <i>Is she going to give up her baby?</i> <i>Is she going to put up her child for adoption?</i></p> <p><i>Did she decide to keep her baby?</i> <i>Why did the birthmother not want the baby?</i></p>	<p><u>WHAT TO SAY</u> <i>Is she going to place her child for adoption?</i> <i>Is she going to make an adoption plan?</i></p> <p><i>Did she choose to parent?</i> <i>*Don't make assumptions*</i></p>
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FOSTER CARE

<p><u>WHAT NOT TO SAY</u> <i>Foster child/Foster kid</i></p> <p><i>I could never do what you do.</i> <i>I could never give the child back.</i> <i>I could never love a child and let him go.</i></p> <p><i>Aren't you worried about your own kids?</i> <i>What might happen to your biological children?</i></p>	<p><u>WHAT TO SAY</u> <i>A child in foster care,</i> <i>a child placed with you</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for what you do.</i> <i>How can I help?</i></p> <p><i>How have you talked to your children about their thoughts?</i></p>
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ADOPTION

<p><u>WHAT NOT TO SAY</u> <i>Your real, natural, or own child/parents</i> <i>Normal family</i></p> <p><i>Where did you get your baby?</i> <i>How much did he cost?</i></p> <p><i>What is he? (ethnicity/race)</i></p>	<p><u>WHAT TO SAY</u> <i>Your biological child/parents</i> <i>Family with only biological children.</i></p> <p><i>Tell me about your story of adoption.</i></p> <p><i>Where was your child born?</i></p>
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When in doubt, don't allow your curiosity to get the best of you and simply ask a parent or child what terms they use to describe their experience so they can educate you.



WATERMARK
COMMUNITY CHURCH