

Unlocking the Secrets of Open Adoption: A Comprehensive Guide to 99 Dos and Don'ts



99 DOs and DON'Ts with Open Adoption: What Hopeful Adoptive Parents Need to Know Before Adopting a Baby (30 Minute Guides to Headache Free Open Adoption Parenting Book 4) by Russell Elkins

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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: Embarking on the Journey of Open Adoption

Open adoption, a progressive approach to adoption that fosters ongoing relationships between the birth parents, adoptive parents, and child, presents both opportunities and complexities. This comprehensive guide, "99 Dos and Don'ts With Open Adoption," serves as an indispensable resource for navigating this unique and fulfilling journey.

Dos:

Honesty, Transparency, and Openness

1. Be open and honest with the child about their adoption from the beginning.
2. Share age-appropriate information about the birth parents and their reasons for placing the child for adoption.
3. Encourage the child to ask questions and express their feelings about their adoption story.

Communication and Relationships

4. Establish clear and respectful communication protocols with the birth parents.
5. Set boundaries and expectations for contact and communication.
6. Facilitate ongoing communication and visits between the child and birth parents, as agreed upon.

Respect and Sensitivity

7. Respect the birth parents' privacy and their decision to place the child for adoption.
8. Be sensitive to the child's need for a stable and loving home.
9. Avoid making assumptions or judgments about the birth parents or the child's adoption story.

Education and Preparation

10. Educate yourself about open adoption and its principles.
11. Prepare the child for open adoption by introducing them to the concept and its potential implications.

12. Seek support from adoption professionals, support groups, or therapists to navigate the challenges and joys of open adoption.

Don'ts:

Secrecy and Dishonesty

1. Don't hide or deny the child's adoption story from them.
2. Don't make up or distort information about the birth parents.
3. Don't discourage the child from asking questions or expressing their feelings about adoption.

Unilateral Decisions and Boundaries

4. Don't make decisions about the child's contact with birth parents without their involvement.
5. Don't unilaterally change the agreed-upon communication or visitation schedule.
6. Don't exclude the birth parents from important events or decisions in the child's life, unless there are safety concerns.

Disrespect and Judgment

7. Don't criticize the birth parents or their reasons for placing the child for adoption.
8. Don't make negative comments or assumptions about the child's birth family.
9. Don't compare your family to the child's birth family or make them feel inferior.

Lack of Support and Preparation

10. Don't underestimate the challenges and complexities of open adoption.
11. Don't neglect to educate yourself and seek support from resources.
12. Don't expect the child to adjust to open adoption without any emotional support or guidance.

: Empowering Open Adoption Journeys

Open adoption, when approached with empathy, respect, and preparation, can create fulfilling and lifelong connections for all involved. By adhering to the "99 Dos and Don'ts" outlined in this guide, adoptive parents can foster healthy relationships, empower their adopted children, and honor the



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