



SIMPLE WAYS TO BE "ADOPTION AWARE" IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS



WHAT IS ADOPTION?



Adoption is when a child is legally taken into the care of a new family. In adoption, all legal rights and responsibilities regarding the child are permanently moved from the child's birth family to their adoptive family.



THERE ARE TWO BROAD CATEGORIES OF ADOPTION:

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

When a child is adopted into Ireland from a different county.



DOMESTIC ADOPTION

When a child is both born and adopted within Ireland. This can involve step-parent adoption, adoption by someone outside of the family, and adoption from long-term foster care.



HOLIDAYS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS



Events such as birthdays, Mother's Day, and Father's Day could elicit varying emotions from adopted children. One way to support them is to make assignments more general (e.g. do a card for a parent, or for an important role model/adult in your life). Also, recognise that adopted children may see certain days as very special to them (for example, the day a child was adopted may be celebrated each year).

ADOPTION FRIENDLY LANGUAGE



It's good practice to take the lead on language from the adopted child. Here are some adoption-positive terms/concepts:

- Birth parent/mother/father
- Biological/genetic parent
- A child adopted from another country into Ireland has had an "intercountry" or "international" adoption
- Birth parents "made an adoption plan"

EACH ADOPTION STORY IS UNIQUE

Some children may be very open about their adoption, while others might be more sensitive about it. Children who are adopted may benefit from being able to talk about their adoption in a safe and supportive space. If a child is adopted from abroad, do not assume that they are aware of the customs and languages of the country they were born in.



Scan this QR code to learn more information about adoption in Ireland



ÚDARÁS UCHTÁLA na hÉIREANN
THE ADOPTION AUTHORITY of IRELAND

AAI Mission Statement

"To ensure the provision of the highest possible standards of adoption related services, throughout the lifelong adoption process, with the best interests of children as the first and paramount objective."