

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES



Adoptive families come in many forms, such as those that are multiracial (i.e., include members of different racial/ethnic identities), or headed by LGBTQ+ parents. These families are formed via different pathways, such as foster care or international adoption. It is essential that harmful effects of stigma and discrimination are minimized for these families; and moreover, support and affirmation of the racial/ethnic and adoptive identities of members of these families are vital.

KEY DEFINITIONS

- Birth privilege: concept describing the benefits associated with being born to and raised by the same family (often by one's biological parents)
- Bionormativity: term describing cultural attitudes and norms that place superiority on biological ties in families
- Microaggressions: subtle, often unintentional insults or slights that invalidate one's minoritized social identity or group membership

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Dr. Amanda Baden on Transracial Adoption
- "The Other Ones" comic strip
- "The Flipside" BBC podcast - "We are Family (aren't we?)"

ACTION ITEMS

- Understand that adoptive families are diverse and are a "real" family or families.
- Minimize assumptions about who constitutes family and that biological connections define family relationships.
- Examine birth privilege (where relevant) and challenge negative stereotypes about adoption.

