

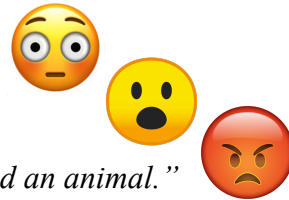


What NOT TO SAY to Adoptive Parents... and *how to get it right!*

When engaging in a conversation with adoptive or foster families, sometimes the best of intentions can become a train wreck that ends up being hurtful to the family. Below we've listed a few of the top things *NEVER TO SAY* to adoptive parents – and some great ways to connect, too.

WHAT NOT TO SAY:

1. “So...what is their story? Tell me all the details.”
2. “Why doesn't the birthmother get on birth control?”
3. “I understand foster care/adoption because I adopted an animal.”



OR ANY OF THESE VARIATIONS:

“Is that your *REAL* daughter/son?” | “Where did you get those kids?” | “Boy, you must have your hands full, is this your daycare?” | “Did you get to pick out the kid that you wanted?” | “Did you adopt because you couldn't have kids of your own?” | “Can I touch their hair?” | “How much did they cost?”



WHAT TO SAY:

1. Give a personal and very positive compliment!
 - a. “You are doing a *GREAT* job!”
 - b. “I love your family!”
 - c. “Your family is beautiful!”
2. Introduce yourself. Say something like, “I love your family, and I'd love to know more about adopting. My name is....”
3. Ask to take them out for coffee to learn more about adoption... on **THEIR** schedule.

For more information about fostering or adopting children, please visit us at www.Adoption-Now.com and tune into our weekly podcast available on iTunes!