

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, and 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. Support and affirmation of the racial/ethnic and adoptive identities of members of these families are vital.

KEY DEFINITIONS

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

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Dr. Amanda Baden
- "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 "real" family
- Minimize assumptions that biological connections define family relationships, and about who constitute family
- Examine own birth privilege (where relevant) and challenge negative stereotypes about adoption

