

30 WAYS TO CELEBRATE

National Adoption Awareness Month

NOVEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Coordinate a display of adoption books to commemorate National Adoption Awareness Month at your child's school or local library.	2 Encourage your child to contribute a portion of his allowance to an organization that works in orphanages or with local foster families. 	3 Ask your local television or radio station to feature a waiting child in your state's foster system. Visit adoptuskids.org or capbook.org for more information.	4 The top 100 adoption-friendly workplaces give an average of \$8,000 in reimbursement and five weeks of paid leave. Learn how to lobby your employer for benefits.	5 Watch a film that portrays adoption in a positive light together as a family. Click for a list of recommendations and post-viewing discussion questions.
6 Create a scrapbook with your child. Talk about significant events as you record them together. Get started with tips and tools at adoptivefamilies.com/scrapbooks .	7 Shop with meaning this holiday season by purchasing gifts that give back to adoption or children's charities. See the list in this issue and find more gift ideas at adoptivefamilies.com/givingback .	8 Get out there and vote! Bring your kids inside the polling booth with you when you cast your ballot.	9 Organize a holiday toy drive for children waiting for permanent families. Involve your child's class, team, or Scout group.	10 Talk to someone who is considering adoption. Tell them about the highs, the lows, the unforgettable moments. Tell them why you'd do it all over again! Buy them a membership to Adoptive Families .	11 Look at family photos or watch home movies and retell your child her adoption story. Find age-by-age advice and guidance for sharing difficult details at adoptivefamilies.com/talking .	12 Make holiday crafts that incorporate imagery or materials from your child's heritage.
13 Invite local adoptive families over for hot chocolate and cookies. Announce the event in your community newspaper. 	14 Give an adoption talk at school. Find parents' presentation notes for educating their kids' classmates in preschool through middle school at adoptivefamilies.com/school .	15 Send a thank-you note to your child's teacher for allowing you to share adoption information. Send a copy to the principal.	16 Find an adult adoptee or a person of color—a coach, a teacher, or a babysitter—who can serve as a mentor for your child. Arrange for them to get together monthly.	17 Spend an afternoon celebrating your child's heritage. For recipes, activities, and other ideas, visit adoptivefamilies.com/heritage . Choose a dish to include in your holiday menu.	18 As you snap great seasonal shots during November and December, upload them to our 2016 Holiday Photo Contest at adoptivefamiliescircle.com .	19 NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY! Courts across the country will finalize thousands of adoptions today. Visit nationaladoptionday.org for more information.
20 Start a tradition of taking a family photo every year on the same day. Share your shot with fellow AF readers at adoptivefamiliescircle.com/photos . Send a copy to your child's birth parents.	21 Find an adoption event or support group meeting to attend at adoptivefamilies.com/events .	22 Connect with other adoptive families or hopeful parents-to-be in the groups on adoptivefamiliescircle.com . Chime in with your experiences and support.	23 Write a thank-you letter to the judge, social worker, or other professional who made your adoption happen.	24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! 	25 Make a donation in your child's or his birth mother's name to an adoption-related charity or organization.	26 As a family, light a candle in honor of your child's birth parents. Turn off the lights and hold hands as you watch the flame.
27 Develop a family ritual to show thanks for your family and the special way you've found one another. See adoptivefamilies.com/rituals for ideas.	28 Print "The Top 10 Myths About Adoption." Distribute it in your community, school, and place of worship.	29 Learn how to celebrate La Navidad, Kwanzaa, Russian Christmas, and Chinese New Year at adoptivefamilies.com/holidays .	30 Become an adoption advocate and raise awareness year round. Learn more about explaining adoption to others at adoptivefamilies.com/category/talking-about-adoption/explaining-adoption . 			

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