

There are abbreviated materials - "Information Packets" - that are included in this list. This list represents only materials primarily on this topic. However, there are other materials that speak to this topic available in the library (i.e., brief "Articles," etc.). Contact ORPARC for additional materials.

## Open Adoption/Mediation

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Material Title: **Adoption Triangle, The**  
 Author: Arthur D. Sorosky, M.D. *Books* 1967 225 pages

This book explores all aspects of the "adoption triad," from birth parents to adoptive parents to adoptees. It covers past and modern adoption practices and issues, and is full of real life stories from all parties of the triad. A large portion of this book is dedicated to how adoptees are affected by sealed or open records.

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Material Title: **Because I Loved You: A Birthmother's View of Open Adoption**  
 Author: Patricia Dischler *Books* 2006 233 pages

This is a handbook that is also a memoir. In nine chapters, Dischler talks about the birthmother's road to open adoption, offering to birth families and adoptive families, advice and guidance through various stages of the experience. She also shares the ups and downs of her own story and that of her now adult son.

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Material Title: **Birth Families and Adoptive Family Relationships (Audiotape)**  
 Author: Audiotape *Audiotapes* 2002

This session includes discussions about creating a photo resume, networking to locate a birth family, sensitive handling of phone calls, the first meeting, a cooperative agreement to outline future contact, and understanding the process from the birth family's and the adoptive family's perspectives. It also includes what to expect when working with a birth parent with a mental health history and/or drug or alcohol addiction.

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Material Title: **Children of Open Adoption**  
 Author: Kathleen & Patricia Martinez Silber & Dorner *Books* 1990 191 pages

For decades, open adoption has been gaining ground, replacing the secrecy and shame once attached to the subject. Examining scores of actual open adoptions, this book focuses, in separate chapters, on infants, preschoolers, school-age children, and teens, showing how love is multiplied and energies are used more productively when family ties are not a mystery.

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Material Title: **Kids Speak: Open Adoption (DVD)**  
 Author: *DVDs* 2005 18 minutes

Three households are profiled, two young adults and a sibling pair discuss the varying degrees of openness in their adoptions and its meaning to their lives. One lived with her birthmother for several years and has remained close throughout her adoption. Another has adoptive parents who felt threatened by his desire for openness, and the siblings fall somewhere in between.

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Material Title: **Kids Speak: Open Adoption (VHS)**  
 Author: Video *Videotapes* 2005 18 minutes

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Material Title: **Life Givers: Framing the Birthparent Experience in Open Adoption**  
 Author: James Gritter *Books* 2000 229 pages

This book examines all the ways in which birthparents are marginalized, providing a glimpse of birthparents' emotional roller coaster ride as they struggle with grief, ambivalence and regret. It makes the persuasive case that adopted children are best served when birthparents and adoptive parents work together to ensure that the birthparents remain part of their children's lives.

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Material Title: **Making Room in Our Hearts: Keeping Family Ties through Open Adoption**  
 Author: Micky Duxbury *Books* 1990 156 pages

This book, based on interviews with more than one hundred adopted children; birth and adoptive parents; extended families; professionals, and experts; helps both adoptive and birth parents address their fears and concerns, while offering them the support to put the child's psychological and spiritual needs at the center of adoption.

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Material Title: **Open Adoption Experience, The (Audiotape)**  
Author: Lois Melina *Audiotapes* 1993 3 hours

This abridged version of the book, "The Open Adoption Experience", read by the authors, will help adoptive and birth parents know what to expect as the relationship unfolds.

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Material Title: **Open Adoption Experience: A Complete Guide for Adoptive and Birth Families, The**  
Author: Lois Ruskai Melina *Books* 1993 363 pages

This book offers a detailed discussion of the many advantages of open adoption as well as the common problems, helping adoptive and birth parents to know what to expect as the relationship unfolds and how other families have coped with the unexpected.

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Material Title: **Open Adoption through the Years: What Are the Challenges? (Audiotape)**  
Author: Audiotape *Audiotapes* 2002

This workshop draws from the experiences of families who have been in long-term open adoptions for 15 to 25 years. Challenges presented involve the simpler ones of managing visits and communication among numerous birth families to the more complex issues of divorce, drugs, death, prison, and more. The speakers encourage sharing of audience experiences.

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Material Title: **Open Adoption through the Years: What Are the Challenges? (CD)**  
Author: CD *CDs* 2002

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Material Title: **Openness in Adoption: Exploring Family Connections**  
Author: Harold D. Grotevant *Books* 1998 208 pages

For professionals and laypersons alike, this book provides a comprehensive review of the issues involved in openness in adoption. It also provides rich data from an exceptional sample of adoptees, their adoptive parents, and their birth mothers, and it provides a perspective on the experience of each of these members of the adoption triad.

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Material Title: **Openness: Making Decisions about Openness in Adoption (VHS)**  
Author: Ed-Net Series *Videotapes* 1999 90 minutes

A panel discussion focuses on sensitive, life-altering decisions about contact with birth parents, siblings, extended birth families and foster parents. Topics include: defining the range of openness, the developmental needs of children and adoptive families, what kids are thinking vs. what they are talking about.

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Material Title: **Realistic Look at Open Adoption, A (Audiotape)**  
Author: Lois Melina *Audiotapes* 1993

This presentation addresses the questions and concerns adoptive parents have about open adoption and helps parents evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of open adoption realistically.

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Material Title: **Respect, Responsibility, and Commitment in Open Adoptions (Audiotape)**  
Author: Audiotape *Audiotapes* 2002

Open adoption is most often presented to prospective birth and adoptive parents in terms of "doing whatever they are comfortable with." What this approach rarely does, however, is take into consideration the needs and desires of the adopted child. This workshop discusses why respect, responsibility, and commitment need to replace comfort if the child is truly to be served in open adoption.

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Material Title: **Respect, Responsibility, and Commitment in Open Adoptions (CD)**  
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## Open Adoption/Mediation

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Material Title: **Spirit of Open Adoption, The**

Author: James Gritter

*Books*

*1997*

*306 pages*

Adoptive parents, birth parents, and adoptees come together in a spirit of extended family that helps the participants overcome the fear, pain, shame, and loss of adoption with honor and respect. Using as groundwork the profound insights of contemporary thinkers in the fields of adoption, theology, philosophy, and literature, Gritter guides the reader along a spiritual pathway that discovers the honesty, community, and cooperation that produce successful open adoption.