

## Start Your Engines!!

*“To read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.”*

*- Victor Hugo*

As you begin your adoption journey we want to make sure that you start out with enough understanding about the unique issues specifically dealt with in adoption. As noted in letters sent to you preceding your Orientation Training we ask that you begin your adoption education by reading Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew by Sherrie Eldridge, and The Open Adoption Experience by Lois Ruskai Melina and Sharon Kaplan Roszia. Please answer the following questions and return to Abrazo within three weeks of receipt so we know you're ready! (Don't be afraid to use the back of the pages if you need more space to write all those wonderful thoughts down!)



**Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew**

1. Which of the twenty topics discussed was the most surprising to you? Why?

---

---

---

---

2. In part one of the book the author speaks about a “grafted tree” in comparison to the identity of the adoptee. What are your thoughts on this concept?

---

---

---

---

3. How do you see the use of validation presented throughout the book?

---

---

---

---

---

4. What suggestions does the book offer to help the adoptee form their own healthy identity and celebrate their differences from their adoptive family?

---

---

---

---

---

## The Open Adoption Experience

1. The authors were quoted as saying, "When open adoptions are successful, it is not because the institution is well designed but because the people involved have worked hard at the relationships." How do you see this reiterated through the interviews detailed in this book?

---

---

---

---

2. Which interview or story did you find most compelling? Why?

---

---

---

---

3. What fears regarding openness do you see demonstrated by the adoptive parents in this book?

---

---

---

---

---

4. What are your thoughts on the best way to build a positive and open relationship according to this book?

---

---

---

---

---