



Learning through adoption

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At first I feel fortunate to experience love and humanity in this wonderful way, as a mother of two children (adopted almost 10 years back). I also believe our adoption journey has helped us evolve as individuals. We learnt to deal with criticism and admiration which came along with our decision to build family through adoption, with equanimity. We learnt to live with uncertainties that parenthood brings. We developed conviction to help our children understand that adoption is only an alternative way of building our family and that there is no need to make a big deal out of it.

We love and nurture our children, the best we can but are neither apologetic about the fact nor overtly proud of it. It comes with all the joy, laughter, happiness and satisfaction as also apprehensions and uncertainties. Tending to them when they are sick, teaching them for good performance at school, working on school projects, playing with them, scolding them when they lie, patting them for a job well done and teaching them how to respect our elders are just some of the tasks that fill our day – just like any other parent.

It's a joy to see my son grow up to be a mature, caring and sensitive person. There are references to their birthparents, and we are completely honest with them. My son sometimes says he would like to search his mother when he grows up and we have promised him, we will help him do that. We often tell him, he has beautiful eyes, which he perhaps takes from his birth parents. We are from north India and we adopted our son from southern India and there is a difference in our complexions. When he was small, about four years, he would ask me 'Why I am black and why are you white?' I replied 'Neither you are black nor I am white; we are just shades of brown, and it's okay to have different complexions and whatever the complexion, you are beautiful'.

My daughter, now nine years old came home as a very tiny baby. She has thrived well to become a beautiful young girl but experienced delays in growth milestones and has had some speech and language related difficulties. My heart knows no bounds of joy when she uses phrases like 'it's incredible' or 'we have to make big decisions' with soft crackle in her voice! We have tried our best to support her needs and do not overly worry about how she will cope with academics. Although academics remains a big part of our life, we have learnt to appreciate and encourage my daughter's creativity and non-verbal skills in drawing, painting, music, and values of hard work and determination and are confident she will find her way. Our effort is to support our children to realize their potential and be good human beings.