



 **Lutheran Family Services**
of Nebraska, Inc.

Open Adoption service locations

Children Services Center
124 South 24th Street, Suite 200
Omaha, NE 68102
(402) 661-7100

2900 "O" Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 435-2910

Lexington Business Center
200 West 7th Street
Lexington, NE 68850
(308) 324-6400

Building Families Boutique
300 West Broadway, Suite #7
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
(712) 242-1040

To learn more:

call (800) 267-9876
or visit www.lfsneb.org

"My experience as a birthmother has its ups and downs. At times I hurt very deeply. But when I see a father and mother and their daughter—all of them so happy, I see the family that I built. I see the dreams that I made come true."

—Caroline, 23



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Lutheran Services in
America Member

Open Adoption

A Caring Choice



Children Services

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Open adoption is a heartfelt commitment to place a child's needs first. The birth parents realize the child needs and deserves more than they are able to give at this time, and the adoptive parents embrace the birth parents as part of the child's life.

Open adoption does not take away pain, nor does it resolve the child's feelings about having been relinquished. It does, however, provide a framework where the child, birth parents and adoptive parents can come together to best provide positive support for one another.

Four open adoption characteristics:

- The birth parents select the adoptive family.
- The birth and adoptive families are in face-to-face personal contact.
- Both families exchange full identifying information.
- Both families establish and maintain an ongoing relationship.

In open adoption, birth & adoptive families come to share several beliefs, including:

- Every child is a gift from God. The needs of the child must come first.
- Honesty, coupled with gentleness, produces the best results.
- Pain and loss are always part of adoption. These feelings cannot be ignored.
- Adoption is a life-altering experience for everyone involved.



Benefits for children

The child knows their birth parents love them very much. They understand how they joined their adoptive family. They do not fantasize about who their birth parents are or what they are like—they know. The child knows about their roots and heritage. Feelings of loss and abandonment are minimized.

Benefits for birth parents

Feelings of loss and grief are lessened by communicating with the adoptive family on an ongoing basis. Birth parents experience a peace of mind in knowing how their child is developing throughout life.

Benefits for adoptive families

Adoptive parents experience a stronger sense of entitlement from being chosen to raise the child. They no longer fear the unknown because they know the birth parents. They have direct access to information in answering a child's questions regarding their heritage, identity, biology and ethnicity, and in exploring medical concerns.