

## TAGS: Specific Adoption Types; Sibling Adoption

### Should You Adopt Your Child's Bio Sibling

You've wanted kids for so long. You've been pricked, prodded, and scoped both physically and emotionally through your years of trying to get pregnant and then trying to adopt. Finally, you are a parent. You are living your dream.

And then one day you get a call from your adoption agency or adoption attorney. Or maybe the call comes from your child's birth mother herself. She is pregnant again and wants to place this child with you. Oh my.

If you *want* another child, this is the happiest day of your life. If you thought your family growing days were over, it is the beginning of many days of soul searching. One mom put it like this: *"How could we say 'no' to our daughter's sibling? How would I explain to my girl that her sister doesn't live with us? How would I live with the guilt?"*

#### To Thine Own Self be True

It is one thing to intentionally split up sibling groups when adopting, but what about siblings that are born *after* the adoption? That can be a sticky wicket for sure. What is considered the "perfect" family size is [an amazingly individual definition](#). It depends on finances, where you live, how time consuming your jobs/careers, your energy level, your age, and quite frankly what you want your life and family to look like. And if you are married, it depends on all these factors times two since the desires of both parents must be considered.

The decision to have another child - regardless if it is the decision to get pregnant or to adopt - should be made based on what the parents want, not what they think their child wants, nor what guilt they may feel. While this advice is easy at the extremes where the parents are clear that they want no more kids, it gets might murky in the middle where parents *think* they probably don't want another child, or think they can't afford another child, or think they may be too old to start over, or simply aren't ready right now, but hope to be ready in a few years.

If you are sitting on the fence in the murky middle, then it makes great sense to throw into the mix of your decision making that it might be good for your child to be raised with his full or half biological sibling. This factor might just tip the scale. It's a good idea to not get too hung up on the perfect timing or perfect age spacing. Most who have faced infertility or adoption know that planning for perfection is a joke.

#### No Guarantees for the Future

The woman quoted above decided to adopt her child's sibling, but then the next year the birth mother was pregnant again. After much agonizing they decided that their family was complete, and another family adopted that child. Now another year later the birth mom is pregnant with twins.

We can't predict the future, so the best we can do is decide what is best for our family at any given point in time, and then make the best of what develops. This family was able to suggest a friend to adopt the third child and now have a close relationship with that family. Hopefully, they'll be able to do the same with the twins.

### **Other Resources to Help You Think Through The Issues**

The [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\) of NACAC's website](#) offers a great overview of the things that you should consider when planning to adopt and will be very helpful for those considering the adoption of a sibling. They also have this excellent essay by an experienced adoptive parent on [Adoption & Sibling Relationships: What Children Have Taught Me](#). [Ambiguous Loss Haunts Foster and Adopted Children](#) is another perspective on the issues surrounding sibling relationships in a child's life.

If you enjoy reading fiction as a means of learning, C.A.S.E. reviewed the book [Far From The Tree: What Does it Mean to be a Family](#). It's a young adult novel that explores, among other themes, the formation of identity and sibling relationships of three young people who have the same birth mother and have been split up into different foster and adoptive families.