

## ADOPTION DAY

These pages share the special moments of the adoption. “Gotcha Day” or “Forever Family Day” is the day the children and parents met. This page is an opportunity to express your most personal thoughts about the importance of the children’s adoptions. The text should include observations about your children.

Materials:

Photos and official paperwork

Starter text from Writing Lesson 3: Writing from the Heart

Record “the moment” that the children were delivered to you. Set the scene by describing the location of the meeting. Who was present from the family? Who handed the children over to the parent?

Focus on recording the children’s outward appearance and their first reaction to their new parents. If you immediately noticed personality traits, be sure to note them.

Copy and reduce the handwritten message that you created from Lesson 3. Consider an envelope or folded note card for privacy.

**Style 1** sample:

Good: “I remember the moment the ayi handed you to me. You looked so scared and cried for the first two hours we were together.”

Better version using “Writing from the Heart”:

“I will always treasure the memory of the first couple of hours we shared together. As I looked into your big, beautiful eyes and tear-stained, rosy cheeks, I saw a child filled with wonder. My face was so unfamiliar to you, but yours was the face I had waited almost two years to see. My heart was overflowing with joy. The room was filled with excited people, laughing and crying, as ten babies met their new families. I want you to know that the moment you were placed in my arms is a memory that I’ll treasure forever.”

(The second version has a lot more detail. The writer tells the child what he wants them to know, in a very tender but direct way).

**Style 2:**

“ I met my Forever Family one sunny, hot spring day in the province of Hunan. This day would change my life. I didn’t know what to expect, so I held my foster mom’s hand tightly. She gently nudged me toward my new family. It was a special day for all of us!”

**Style 3:**

“On a very special day, a nanny traveled eight hours on a train. She was holding a little baby wrapped in many layers of clothing. This would be the last time she would cuddle the child. A new family waited for them. When the baby and nanny arrived, the family looked VERY excited. When the mom held her baby for the first time, it was magical. The baby smiled a little bit, and kept looking back at the familiar face of her nanny. A little whimper came from the child’s mouth. She was unsure of this new family, but they were gentle with her. They talked to her very softly as they stroked her warm head. Soon she would realize that they would love her FOREVER!”

Ideas I like:

Events of our day: