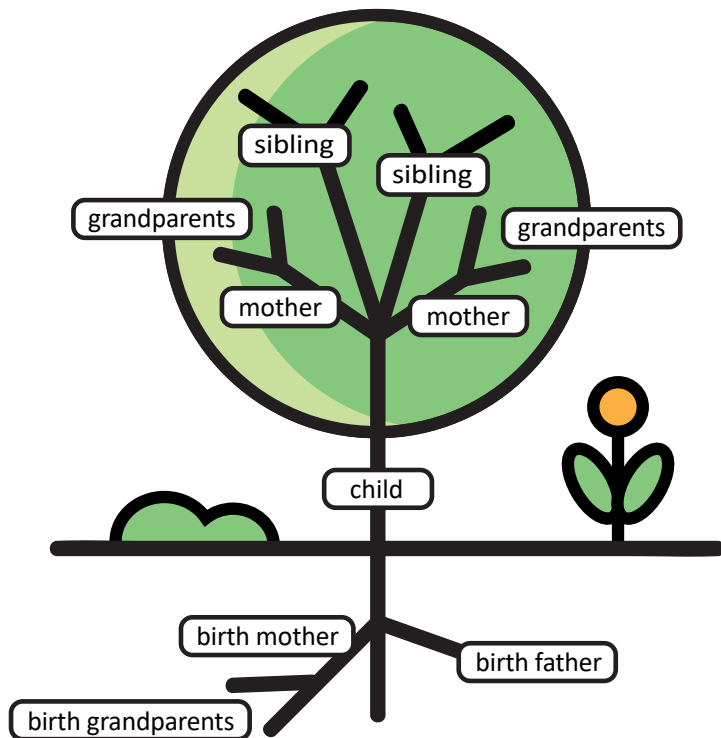# Adoption-friendly family trees

At some point, almost every child will have to tackle a family tree school project. Classic family tree assignments assume every kid comes from an intact biological family with one mom and one dad. This can leave adopted kids feeling confused, left out, and sad. These alternative family trees welcome kids from all families to celebrate their uniqueness. We've filled out each example tree to represent one potential family structure. Infinite variations are possible!
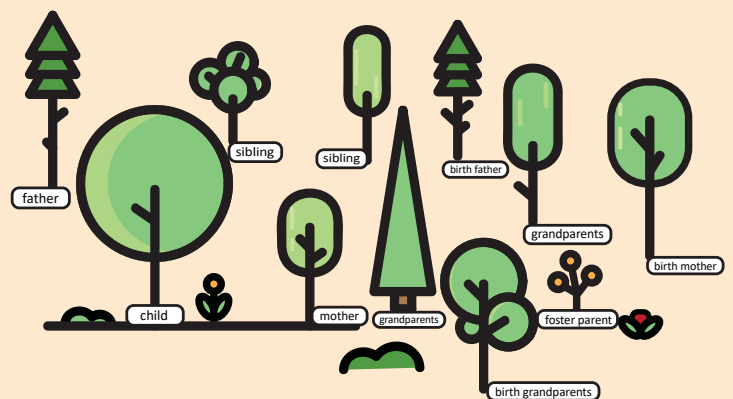

THE ROOTS AND BRANCHES FAMILY TREE

The Roots and Branches family tree is a great way to accommodate a child's biological and adoptive families. The child's name is written in the space in trunk, or heart, of the tree. The roots represent the biological family, the trunk represents the child, and the branches represent the adoptive family. This format could easily be adjusted so that the branches include foster family, step-family, or any other type of family.

THE FAMILY FOREST

In the Family Forest, the child's tree is the largest; other trees of various sizes are assigned to family members. This option allows for a lot of creativity! The child can assign their birth family to a specific type or size of tree, and their adoptive family to a different type or size. The level of creativity is up to you!

SAMPSON
MICHAEL
MRS JACKSON
ETHAN
AUNTIE BARB
OWEN
LIAM
SAMANTHA
AVA
JOJO
NOAH
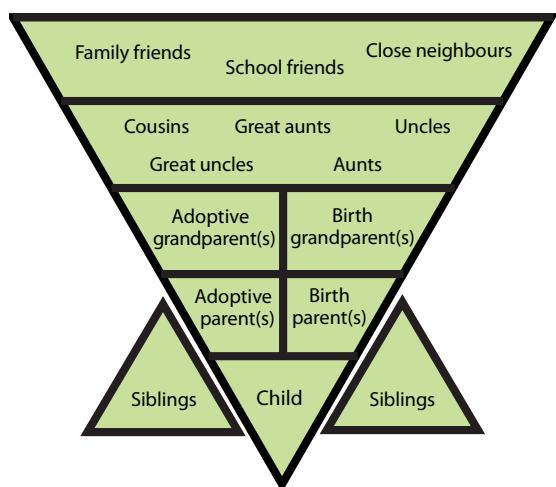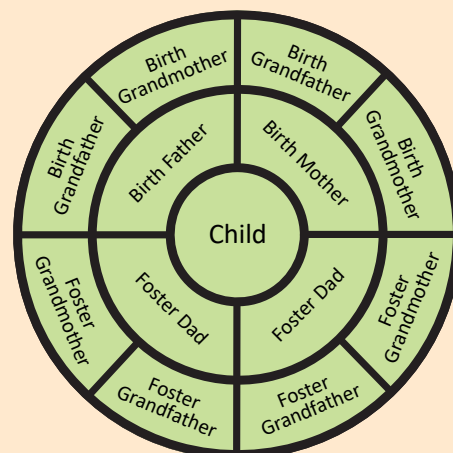GRANDPA PHIL
MOM SARAH LUKE

JORDAN BROWN

THE NAME TREE

A Name Tree is a great option for a child who wants to be more private about their adoption or the specifics of their family. The child's name is written at the bottom of the page, and the names of family members are written in the shape of the tree. The child can place anyone they want wherever they want, and they don't need to include titles like aunt, mother, or sister. Instead, they can just use people's names or nicknames. These trees can be especially beautiful pieces of art!

THE FAMILY WHEEL

The Family Wheel is a simple and inclusive alternative option. This diagram lets children draw as many slices of pie as they need to fit their family. The child's name goes in the centre of the wheel and the middle and outer rings of the wheel represent birth, adoptive, foster and/or step-family relationships.

Birth Grandmother
Birth Grandfather
Birth Grandfather
Birth Father
Birth Mother
Birth Grandmother
Child
Foster Grandmother
Foster Dad
Foster Dad
Foster Grandmother
Foster Grandfather
Foster Grandfather

Family friends
Close neighbours
School friends

Cousins   Great aunts   Uncles
Great uncles   Aunts

Adoptive grandparent(s)   Birth grandparent(s)

Adoptive parent(s)   Birth parent(s)

Siblings   Child   Siblings

THE FAMILY PYRAMID

The Family Pyramid is a simple and adaptable alternative for adopted children. The number of levels in the pyramid is completely up to the child and their family structure. The child's name is placed on the bottom level and the family members are placed in the ones above. The pyramid can be divided in half to include birth family.

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF BC