

A Child's Understanding of Adoption

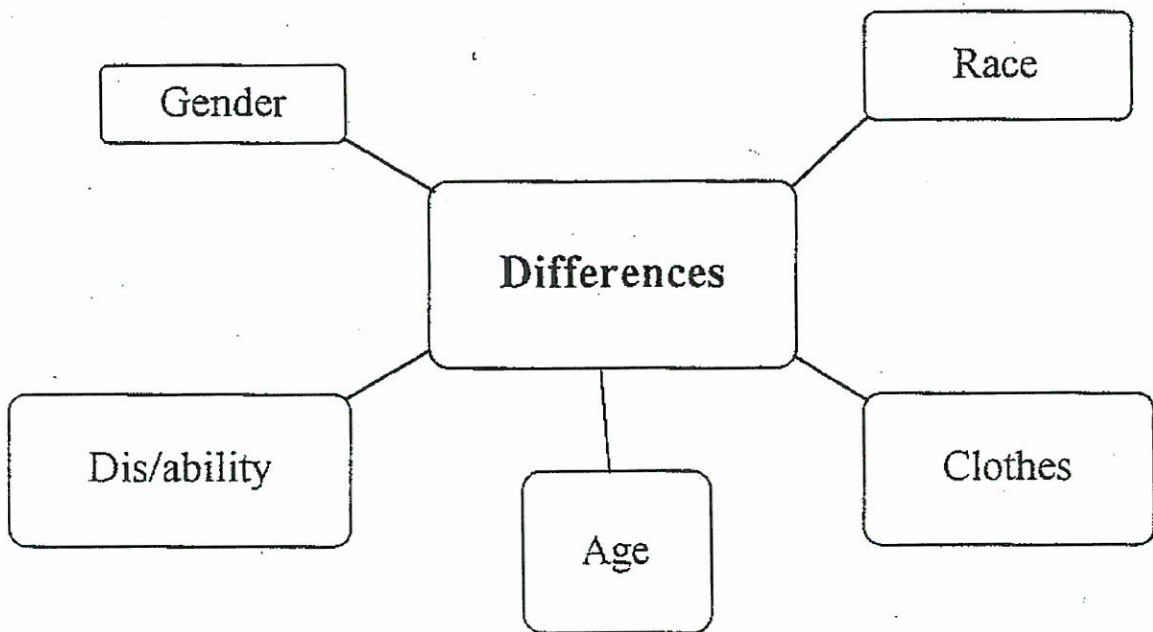
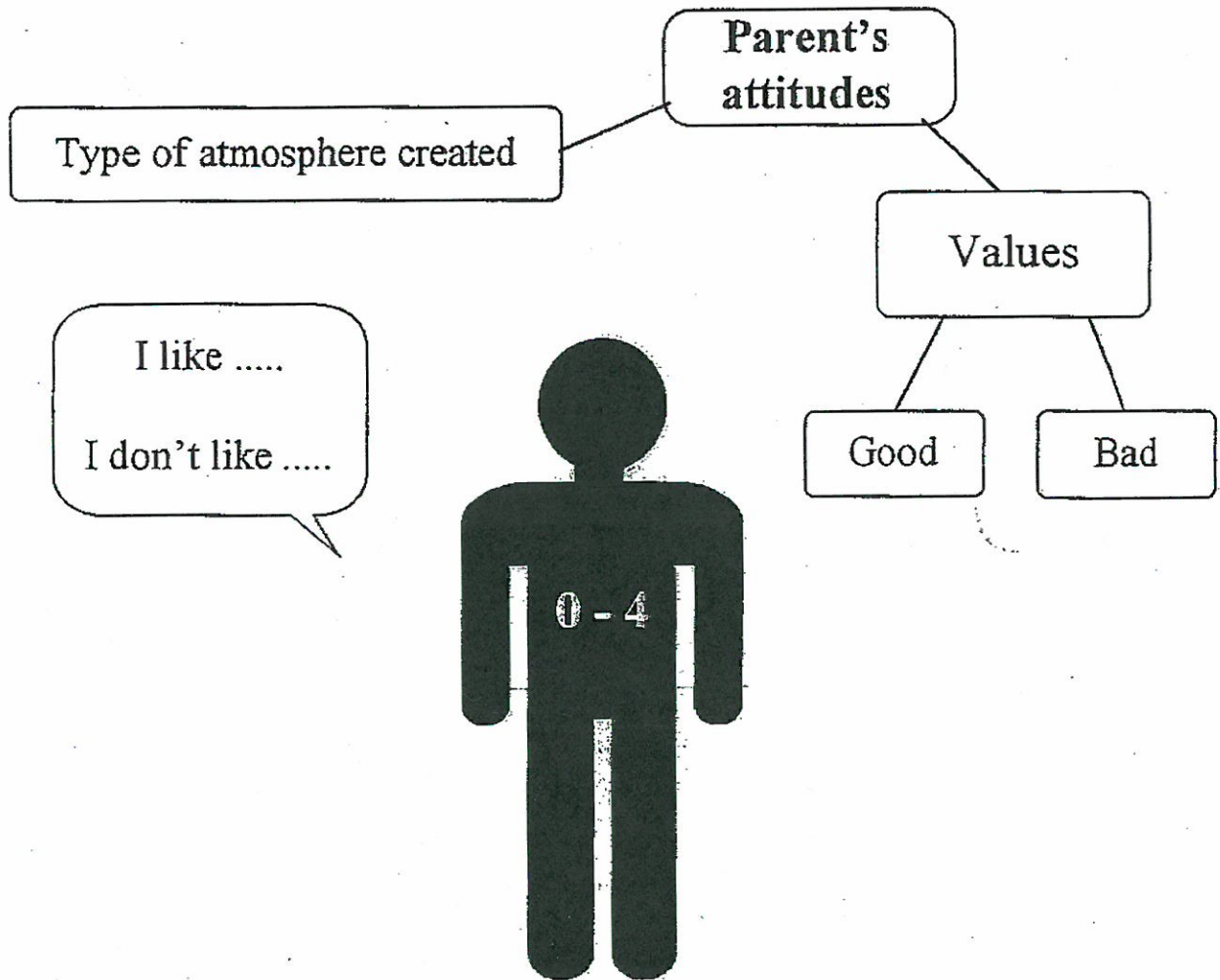
Based On Work by David Brodzinsky



Support
After
Adoption

(Nottinghamshire Post-Adoption Service)

**Very young children
have no understanding
of adoption**



Still no understanding of the difference between birth and adoption

Where do babies come from?

Everyone is adopted

Family is people who live together

Can repeat story

4 - 6

Repeating words you have said like birth and adoption.

Starting school

Attitudes of others

Values

Good/bad

Magical thinking

May feel responsible

Imagination

Play

**Understand there
are different
ways into
a family**

Birth

Why didn't
they keep
me?

Birth
Family

Need simple,
but concrete
explanations

Adoption

Accept adoptive
family are permanent

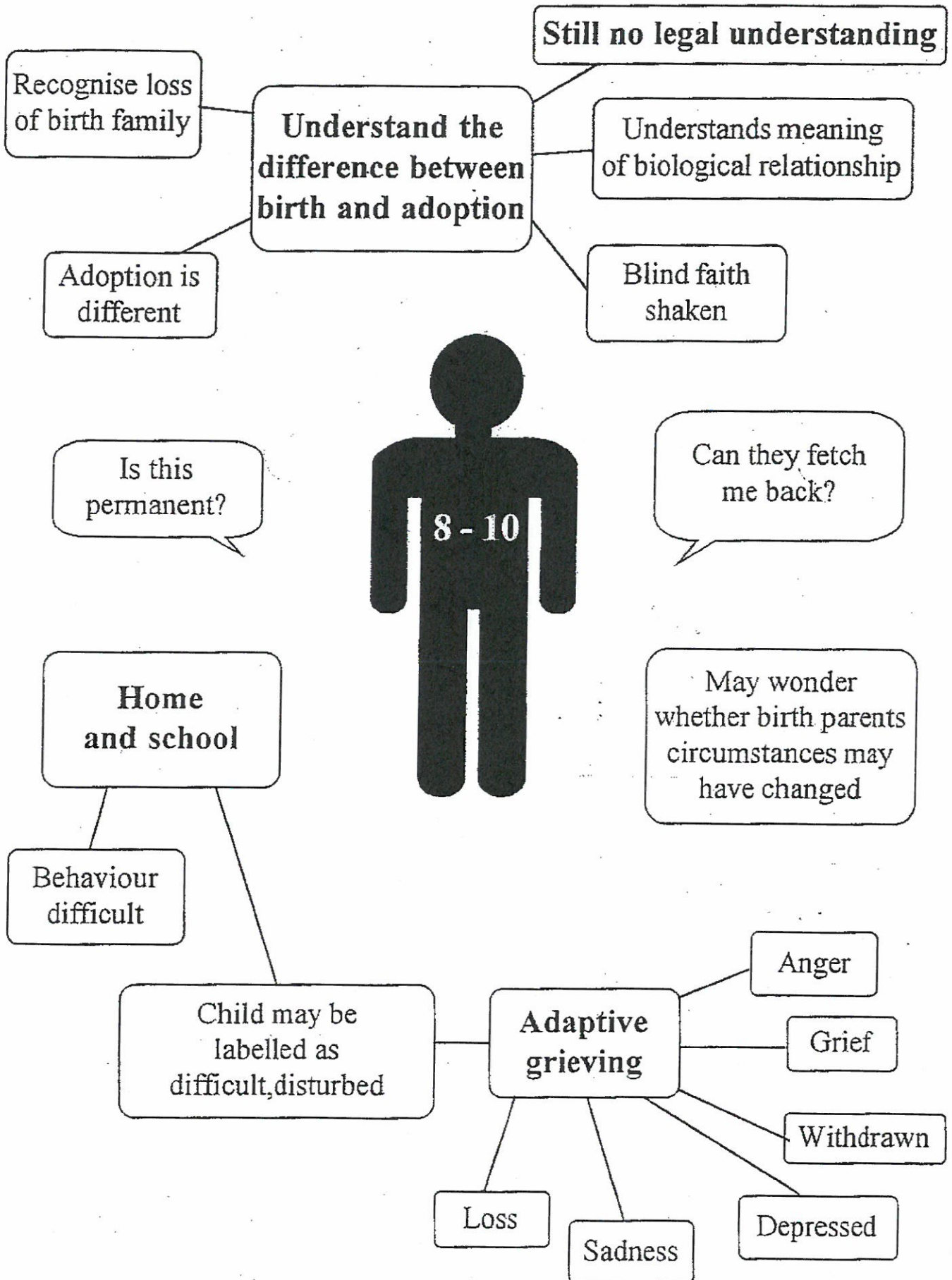
Because Mummy
and Daddy
say so



Blind faith

Have no legal
understanding

Adoption is different - Adaptive Grieving



Child now has more legal understanding

Understand legal authority

Lawyers

Judges

Social workers

Permanence accepted

10 - 12

More secure at Home and school

Settled

Understand the more complex reasons for adoption

Identity - Who am I?

