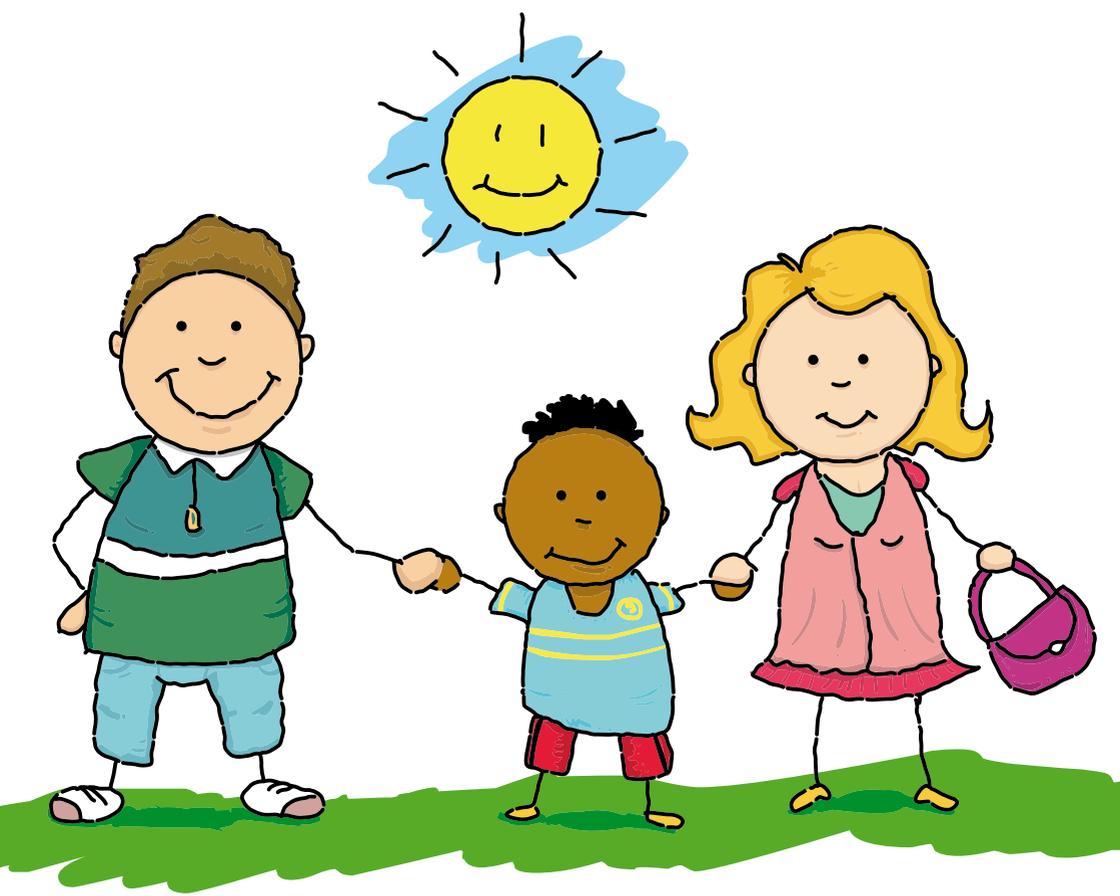




Children's Guide to Adoption

This book belongs to

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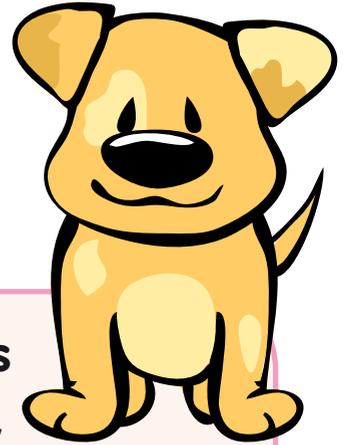


This is a booklet for children who are going to be adopted.

It's a good idea to read this booklet with a grown up you can trust.

If you need this booklet in another language or format ask your grown up to contact us.

Hi – I'm Pip I am going to tell you about being adopted.



What being adopted means

- Adoption means growing up in a new family where you will be safe, loved and cared for
- Being adopted means that you can't live with the people you were born to, your birth parents.
- Adoption means becoming part of this new family for always.

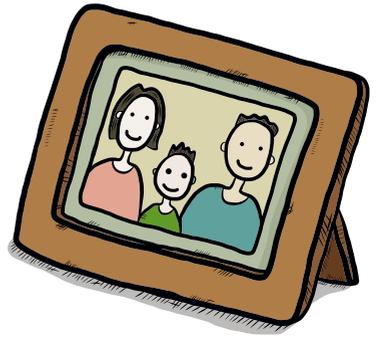
You deserve to be



Children are adopted for lots of different reasons. It is usually because the parents you were born to found it hard to look after you properly and keep you safe.

Foster Families

Foster families look after children and keep them safe whilst social workers try very hard to find children new adoptive families.



Just like you, it was decided it wasn't safe for me to live with my birth family so I went to live with a foster family.



Adoptive Families

There are all kinds of adoptive families.

- Sometimes it means a mum and a dad together.
- Sometimes it means a mum or a dad on their own.
- Sometimes two mums or two dads.

You will have a Social Worker whose special job it is to make sure you are safe and to find the right adoptive family for you. Sometimes this can take a little while.

What happens when your adoptive family have been found?

When your adoptive family have been found there are lots of special meetings where everyone has to agree they are the right family for you.

You might feel a little bit excited or you may feel a little muddled.

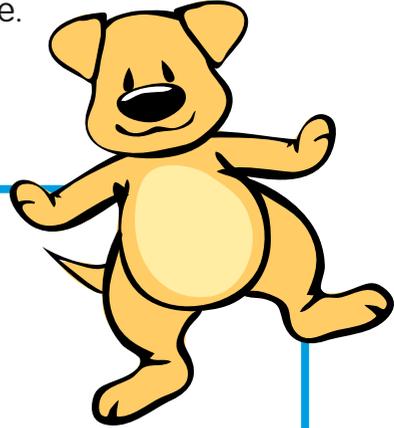
I remember feeling a little worried that my new family may not like me.

You will see photos and maybe a DVD of your new family so that you can see what they look like, the sort of house you will be living in and to share all the things they are looking forward to doing with you.

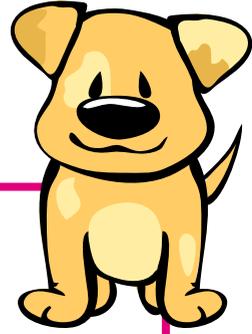


You can ask your social worker any questions you like. Such as what will my bedroom be like, who will play with me, who will help me brush my teeth and who will do my hair? On this page you can draw or write your questions here. If you need help, ask a grown up.

What I want to know



If there are things you want your new family to know about you, you can draw or write them here.



A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a thick pink border, intended for drawing or writing.

You might sometimes feel a little sad and a little muddled. The grown-ups will try to understand and help you.

Your new adoptive family will come to see you at your foster home and get to know you better. You can also visit your new home.

When you're ready you will go to live with your new family in your new home.

Don't worry you can take your special things with you.

- Your new family will love you,
- take care of you and keep you safe, just like my adoptive family did for me.

Your new family will make big decisions about you.

These could be as big as deciding which school you will go to or as small as when it's time for your bath!



Living with a new family takes practice.

After a while, a judge who is a wise and important person will be asked to make your family your legal adoptive family, this means you will stay with this family for always. The judge will want to know what you think about this.

Your surname (this is your last name) will also change, you will have the same surname as your new family.

Your social worker will make sure that you have a special book called a Life Story Book this will explain the reasons why you were adopted.

In our Statement of Purpose Walsall Council promises to:

- Help you to understand about adoption.
- Listen to what you tell us about how you feel and what you want to happen
- Do our best to make sure you don't wait too long for a new family.
- Do our best to help you keep in contact with your birth family if this is what is decided is best for you. This might mean helping with visits. We will help you to understand what has been decided.
- Try hard to make sure you can live with your brothers and sisters if it is decided this is best for you. If this is not possible we will help you to keep in contact with them.
- Remember that your family background is very important to you.
- Help you to settle with your new family.
- Offer help and support to your birth family (the family you were born to).

People who will help you through your adoption journey.

- Your social worker is called

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- Your Independent Reviewing Officer is called

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- Your Social Worker from the adoption team is called

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Useful Contacts

If you have any problems or worries about adoption it is best to speak to your adoptive parent(s) first, or if a family is still being found for you another grown up you can trust such as your foster carer or social worker.

For information about adoption support, you or your parent(s) can call Walsall Council Adoption Service on 0300 555 2839 and ask to speak to an Adoption Social Worker.

You can also write to:

The Adoption Service, 1st Floor,
Pinfold Health Centre, Field Road,
Bloxwich, Walsall,
West Midlands, WS3 3JJ

Other Adoption Support

Talkadoption

Telephone: 0800 0568 578

Website:

www.afteradoption.org.uk/

Talkadoption is for adopted young people to get together, talk about their experiences of adoption and take part in creative and fun activities. They can also help with any worries or questions you may have.



National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)

Telephone: 0808 808 1001
Website: www.nyas.net

The NYAS advocacy service provides children and young people with information about their rights and to have a voice and be heard when decisions are made about their lives.

Childline

Freephone: 0800 1111
Website: www.childline.co.uk

You can contact Childline about anything. No problem is too big or too small. Whatever your worries it's better out than in.

If you're not happy with how you're Social Worker or the Adoption Service and you wish to make a complaint you can ask a grown up you trust to help. You can complain to;

Corporate Performance
Management (Tellus)
Walsall Council
Civic Centre
Darwall Street
Walsall
WS1 1TP

Telephone: 01922 650000

Ofsted

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Tel: 0300 123 1231

Or

Children's Commissioner for England

Maggie Atkinson
Sanctuary Buildings,
20 Great Smith Street,
London, SW1P 3BT

Freephone: 0800 528 0731

Website: www.rights4me.org.uk

Remember if you are worried or unsure about anything ask a grown up





Children's Guide To Adoption

Freephone No: 0800 073 0597
Website: www.adoptionblackcountry.co.uk

This booklet has been produced with the help of the following group of adopted young people;

Aimee
Ashleigh
Thomas
Adam
Brooklyn
Harlem

We thank them for their important contributions