The Triangle Project offers early permanence placements, where children can be placed with approved adopters who have also been approved as foster carers.
What is early permanence?

In early permanence placements, children are fostered at an early stage by the people who are likely to become their adopters, avoiding the possibility of multiple temporary placements.

When a child can’t live with their birth family, local authorities and the courts are responsible for finding a new family without delay.

But this takes time. All available options for a child’s care must be explored before a decision is made to seek adopters, and in most cases, children live with foster carers while these decisions are being made.

Foster carers do a wonderful and vital job but children usually only stay with them temporarily while their future is decided and, quite often, children experience a number of temporary placements.

Early permanence seeks to reduce the number of moves a child experiences and the trauma associated with this upheaval.
A child-centred solution

In the standard care system, vulnerable children are often faced with uncertainty and instability. An early permanence placement can offer many benefits.

When a child is ‘fostered’ by the people who are likely to become their adopters, it means the bonding process can begin much earlier than it would do with a standard adoptive placement. This gives the child the reassurance of a loving, secure family life at the earliest opportunity.

It also means a child will endure fewer moves and broken attachments, avoiding some of the stress and damage which can be caused by removing a child from foster carers they have bonded with.

Contact with the birth family may well be required during the fostering stage of the placement, but this can encourage a better understanding of the birth parents’ situation and the struggles they have faced, which can be vitally important to an adopted child as they grow older.

In some rare cases, a child in an early permanence placement will be returned to their birth parents. This can be very difficult for everyone. But everyone involved in the child’s welfare will work together to provide the necessary support for that child, their family and their carers.

It is important to remember that early permanence is a child-centred process which seeks to place the uncertainty with the adults, rather than with vulnerable children.