



Adoption
focus

Children's Guide to Adoption



Children who need new homes have their own social worker.

It is their job to find you a new family where you will be happy and safe and can grow up.

Your new family has a social worker too. It is their job to help your new family learn all about adoption and all about you. They work for Adoption Focus.



Adoption Focus is an Adoption Agency. The social workers at Adoption Focus help people learn all about how to adopt and help them to find children who need new families to care for them.

How Adoption Focus helps

- We find out about people who want to adopt
- We teach people how to care for children
- We make sure that people who adopt can keep children safe
- We visit new families to help and support them
- We help parents and children learn how to become a family



Becoming a family

Before Adoption Focus decided that your new family could adopt, the social worker spent a lot of time with them, to find out about how they would care for a child.



We talked about:

- How they will keep you safe
- The things they like to do
- How you will spend time together as a family
- How they will talk to you about your past
- The type of house they live in
- How they will play with you
- Other children in the family
- The things they like to eat
- Any pets they have

Before you came to live with your new family, your social worker thought hard about who would be the right family for you to grow up in.

When the social worker from Adoption Focus felt sure that your new family was ready to care for children, they helped your family to find you.



Your new family has thought about the things that are important to you:

- The things you like to do
- The things you like to eat
- How your family can help you in your new school
- Who you will want to talk about
- How your family can help you remember the things that are important to you
- How they will play with you
- What you do when you feel scared... or sad

Who can you talk to?

There are lots of grown-ups you can talk to including:



Being adopted

When you all feel ready, the social workers will help your family to apply for the adoption order. This will mean that your adoption will become legal and you will have a new last name.

When you are adopted, it means that your new family can make important decisions about you and you won't see your social worker so much anymore, except to support your family sometimes when you need some help.

Adoption Focus is always here for you and your family though. We sometimes have play groups and parties which other families come to and we send newsletters to parents. We also have a group for older adopted children and their brothers and sisters where they can get together and do fun things.



If you or your family are not happy with anything that your social worker or anyone else from Adoption Focus does, you can speak to us and we will try to sort things out.

If you or your family cannot sort things out with your social worker, then the senior person (the CEO) at Adoption Focus can be contacted. Her name is Anna Sharkey. She will listen to what you have to say, and look at what has gone wrong, and tell you how we will try to put things right.



Contacting Anna

Anna Sharkey
Adoption Focus
TS3 Pinewood Business Park
Coleshill Road
Marston Green
Birmingham
B37 7HG

Telephone: 0121 779 0891

Email: annasharkey@adoption-focus.org.uk

If it is a problem or a complaint which you can't talk to Adoption Focus about, you can contact Ofsted.

Ofsted is the organisation which checks that we are doing our work properly. If we are not, they need to be told so that we can make things better.

Contacting Ofsted

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD



Telephone 0300 123 4666 between 8.00am and 6.00pm if you have a complaint about any service Ofsted inspects or regulates.

Telephone 0300 123 1231 about children's services or any other aspect of Ofsted's work.

Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Other Useful Contact Details

The Children's Commissioner for England
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Telephone: 020 7783 8330

Website: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Telephone: 0808 808 1234

Childline is a free and confidential helpline which you can call anytime to talk about anything.

Telephone: 0800 1111

