



The adoption process

A brief overview of the adoption process in seven steps.

1. Contact us

We'll explain the process, answer your questions and send you our full information pack.

2. Registration and checks

Register with us to start Stage One of the process. A social worker will visit you in your home and take you through the process. We'll take up your references and checks and you'll arrange an adoption medical with your GP. Stage One takes eight weeks to complete.

3. Preparation

All applicants attend our preparation training which we run in groups throughout the year. You'll meet other applicants at the same stage and learn more about adoption, the children, child development and supporting adopted children as well as meeting people who've already adopted.

4. Assessment and more learning

Once your checks and references are complete, you can take up to six months to decide to continue to Stage Two which takes four months to complete. During this you'll take more training and complete the assessment with your social worker.

5. Approval to Adopt

At the end of your assessment your application to adopt is considered by our Adoption Panel, a group of people with professional and personal experience in adoption. You'll attend a Panel meeting with your social worker after which the Panel will make a recommendation about approving you to adopt. The final decision is made by the Adoption Focus Decision Maker.

6. Family finding

Once you're approved, the family finding process begins. Adoption Focus works with social workers from Local Authorities who are looking for new families for children. We'll plan the linking process with you and your social worker and work with children's social workers to find the right child or children for you.

7. Supporting your family

Following placement, your social worker will be in regular contact as you adjust to your new life together. Even once you're all settled, we're always happy to hear from adoptive families and provide any support you need.

Starting the process

You can contact Adoption Focus at any time to discuss adoption. Whether you're ready to start the adoption process or you would just would a little more information, please get in touch, by email, phone, through our website or at one of our weekly online information events.



Why Adoption Focus?

Adoption Focus is a friendly, experienced adoption agency, consistently rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. We provide adoption and fostering for adoption services in Birmingham, Solihull, the Black Country, Coventry, the West Midlands, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties.



How we support you

Adoption Focus is committed to providing excellent adoption support to all of our families. Our dedicated adoption support team is available to respond to any queries or problems. They provide training, direct work, expert advice and reassurance. Our support includes workshops, groups, our Buddy Scheme, social events, work with schools and social work assistance whenever it's needed.



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www.adoption-focus.org.uk

*"We were so supported.
Adoption Focus were wonderful.
They were with us every step of the way."*

**Sara,
Adopter of two children**



Who can adopt?

We welcome applications from people of all ages and backgrounds. Whether you're a couple, single, gay, straight, married, unmarried, have children or not, whatever your ethnicity, whether or not you're practising a faith, or if you have a disability, you have the potential to adopt.

Triangle Project

Fostering for adoption

We also provide Fostering for Adoption placements through the Triangle Project. This child-focused approach to adoption sees a child in care placed with registered foster carers who are also approved as adopters. It's intended to speed up a child's care journey and minimise the disruption of repeated moves to different families. You can find out more about this pathway on our website, in our information events and in our preparation training.



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Ofsted
Outstanding
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