



North East Lincolnshire Council

My book about adoption



Adoption service



Contents page

This book belongs to	02
All about me	03
All about families	05
All about birth families	06
All about families who foster children	08
All about my social worker	10
All about families who adopt	11
When children are adopted	12
How will I get to know my new mum and dad?	15
Will I see my birth family again?	16
Do I have to go to court?	17



This book belongs to:

All about me

My name is:

I live at:

I live with:

My age is:

My birthday is:

My school is:

My best friends are:

I like:

This is your special book to keep. It is a book all about children and families. You can read it with a friend or an adult or you can read it by yourself. There are spaces in the book where you can write down your ideas, or important things to remember, if you like.

The golden rule of this book is that if you don't understand anything, then you can ask an adult to explain. Remember to tell them your thoughts and how you feel as well.

Now, let's get started...





My birth mum and dad:



All about families who foster children

When children can't stay with their birth family, they often go to live with another special kind of family – a family who fosters children.

There are lots of different kinds of foster families.

Can you tell me about your foster family?

Who lives in your foster family?

You can draw a picture of everyone, if you like.



Foster families look after children when they can't live with their birth mum or birth dad. Children can live with foster families for just a few days, or for much longer. Foster families want to make sure that children get the all love, care and help that they need.

Tell me about living with your foster family.



All about my social worker

Another person who wants to help you is your social worker.

A social worker is someone who tries to help children and their birth families when things don't go very well. Social workers also find new families for children to live with when they can't live with their birth families.

Remember: you need to tell your foster mum or dad or your social worker if you are worried or if you don't understand anything. They want to help you.

My social worker is:

Their address is:

Their telephone number is:

All about families who adopt

Some children who live with foster families cannot go back to live with their birth mum or birth dad, so some children need a new family.

Foster families don't usually look after children until they are grown up, so social workers find new families for children. Everyone hopes that children can stay in these new families until they are grown up.

Families who want to adopt children are special families. They want to look after children until they are grown up. When children are adopted it means children legally belong in their new families.

"So what does being adopted mean?"

"That's a good question."

Being adopted means

Belonging to, and growing up with, your new family when you can't live with your birth mum or birth dad. Everyone hopes that this will be the family you live with until you are grown up and that you won't have to move again.

When children are adopted, their last name changes to the last name of their new mum and dad. Being adopted is such an important step that only special people called judges or magistrates can say that children are adopted

When children are adopted

- Your social worker and your foster carers will want to hear how you feel about being adopted.
- They will want to have lots of talks with you and make sure you understand.
- Your social worker will have lots of talks with your birth mum and birth dad to see what they think about you being adopted and to make sure they understand what adoption means.
- Your social worker will be very careful about finding the right family for you.
- They will be helped by another social worker called an adoption social worker. One of the jobs of the adoption social worker is to find new families for children.

“How do I get adopted”?

Well, there are some important things to remember.

Your social worker will have to go to lots of meetings to tell people why you need a new family and to see if they agree. One of these meetings is called the adoption panel.

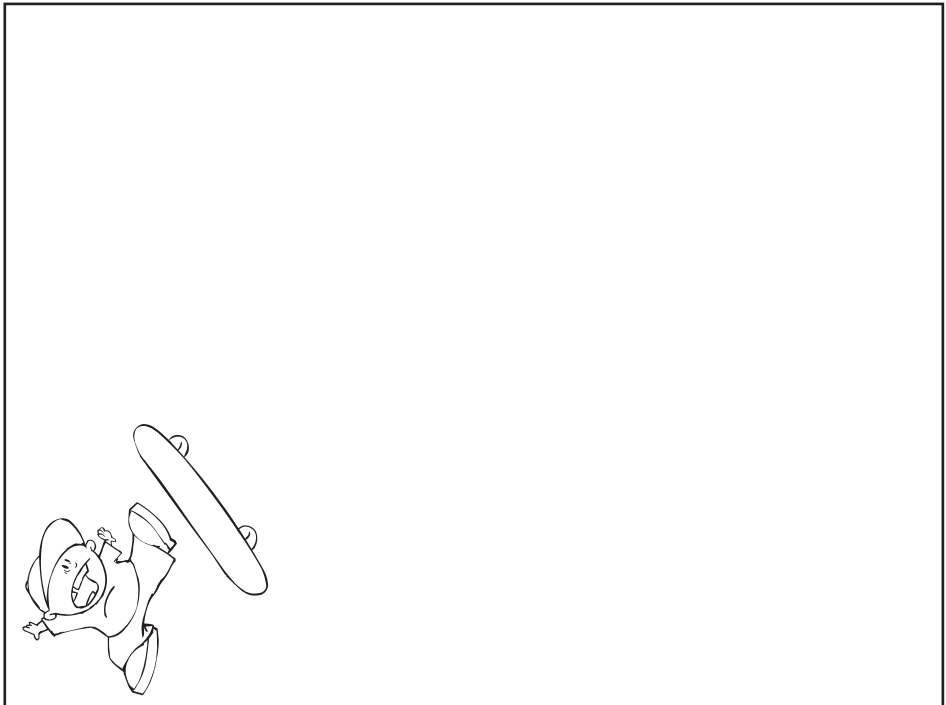
Your social worker may also have to go to Court to explain why you need a new family.

A court is where judges or magistrates work. Magistrates and judges know a lot about the laws for children. They know what children need to give them a good life. Judges and magistrates will also want to listen carefully to what your birth mum and birth dad say about you being adopted.

The judges or magistrates will then say whether or not you should be adopted when they have listened to everyone.

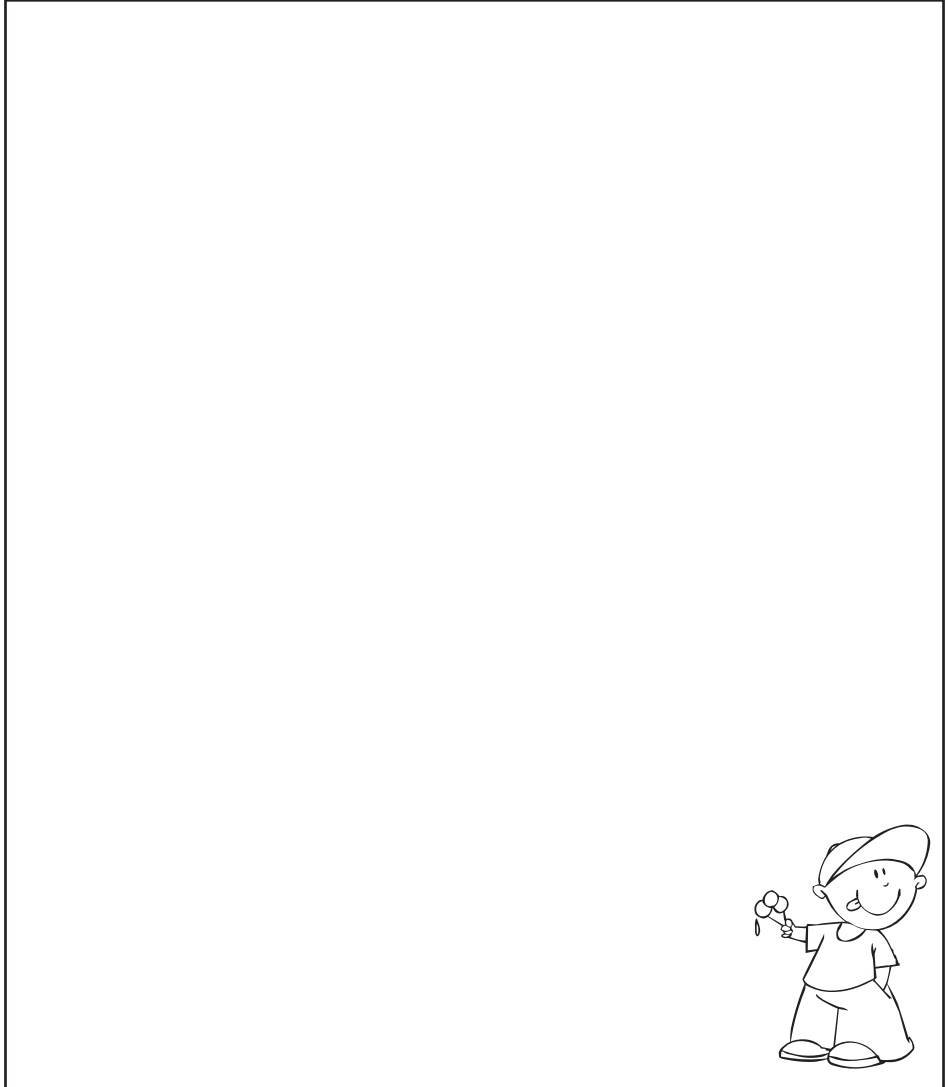
“That’s a lot to remember”!

Is there anything you would like your social worker or foster carer to tell you more about?



My book about adoption

Sometimes thinking about all these things can make you feel excited or sad or just a bit muddled. Can you say how you feel?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a child to write their feelings about adoption. It occupies most of the page below the introductory text.

How will I get to know my new mum and dad?

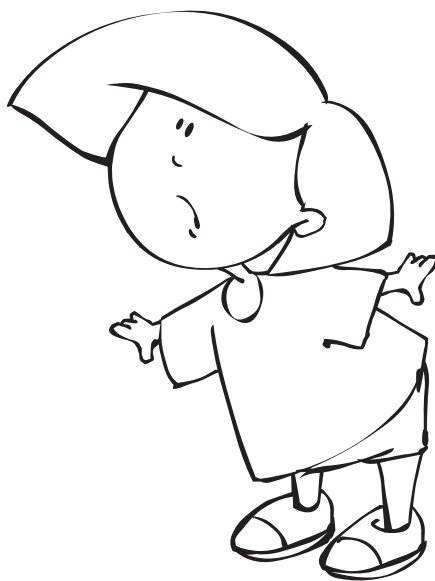
Then you will have lots of meetings with your new mum and dad. To begin with, you will see them at your foster carer's house. Then, when you are ready, your new mum and dad might take you out on their own and even show you their house.

But all the time your social worker and your foster carers will be talking with you to see how you are. You can tell them how you feel.

If everyone thinks things the time is right, then you can go to live with your new family. Before you move, you might have a special time at school and a special party at your foster home too.

"What happens if I feel unhappy"?

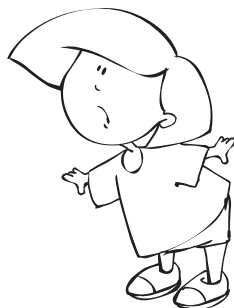
Meeting someone new and saying goodbye can make you feel muddled in your tummy. If you feel unhappy about anything, be sure to tell your social worker or your foster mum or dad because they want to help you.



Will I see my birth family again?

You might be wondering if you will see your birth family if you are adopted. Going to live with a new family does not mean that you have to forget about your birth family and it does not mean your birth family will forget about you or stop thinking about you. When you move to live with your new mum and dad you might not see your birth mum and dad but you might have photos of them in your life story book.

Sometimes families who adopt children write a letter each year to the children's birth family. The letter will say how you are. These letters never have your new address or your new last name on them. The letters are sent to your social worker who will send them on to your birth family.



"Will I have to go to court to be adopted?"

"That's right!"

Do I have to go to court?

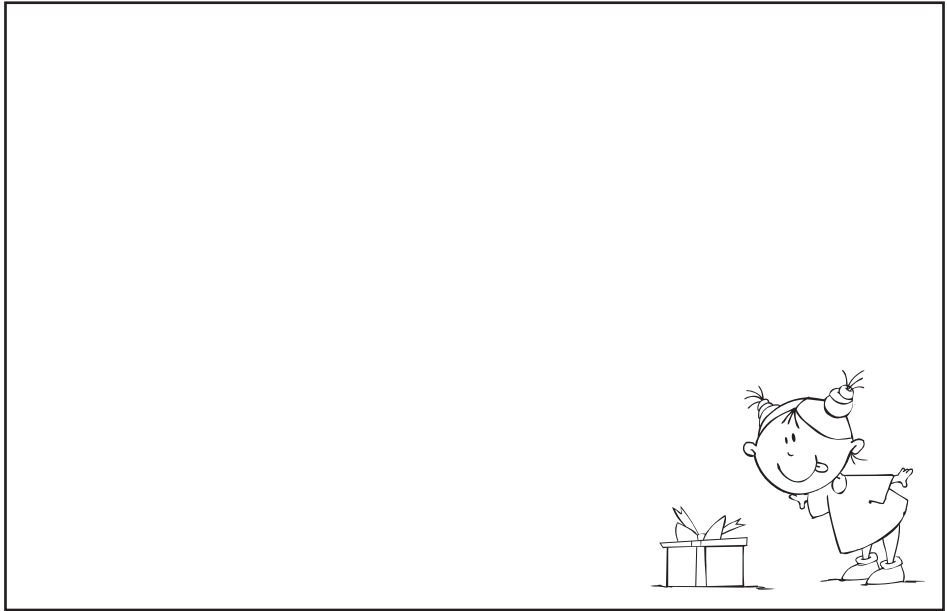
When you are adopted at court, this is called your adoption day! You might celebrate with your new mum and dad. Now they will be your legal mum and dad and you will be their legal son or daughter.

Thank you for looking at this book. We hope this book helps you to understand what adoption means. There can be lots to think about!

You can make a list on this page of all the people who can help you if you want to ask any questions.

People who check the work of children's social workers are called ofsted inspectors. If you are very unhappy with anything which your social worker or foster carer cannot help you with, you can ask to be in touch with an ofsted inspector. This is the address where ofsted adoption inspectors are based:- Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD. Tel: 0300 123 1231

You can make a list on this page of all the people who can help you if you want to ask any questions.



These are some of the other people who could help:

1. Your independent reviewing officer (sometimes called an IRO for short). Your **IRO** is the person who is in charge of your reviews. She or he will sometimes come to speak to you before your reviews because it is really important to them to know what you think. If you needed to contact to your **IRO** this is how you can get in touch with them:

Your IRO is:

Their telephone number is:

Their email address is:

2.The children's rights director

The children's rights director has a very good website with lots of information for children and young people.

The website address is: **www.rights4me.org**.

(There is a form you can fill in online if you want to get in touch)

You can ring their phone number: **0808 801 0366**



Or you can write a letter:

Office of the Children's Rights Director
Ofsted
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE



3. Ofsted

Ofsted are the agency which inspects Children's Services to make sure they are helping children in the best way.

Ofsted have a website and the address is: www.ofsted.gov.uk.
(You can fill a form in online if you want to get in touch)

There is a telephone number: (0300) 123 1231
(open from 8.00am – 6.00pm)

Or you can write a letter: Ofsted Piccadilly Gate, Store Street,
Manchester, M1 2WD.

4. An independent advocate

If you would like to speak to someone who does not work with your social worker or adoption social worker, you can do. This person is called an independent advocate because they don't work with your social worker or adoption social worker (that's why they are independent) and because they will listen to you and try to speak up for you (this is what advocate means).

If you would like to know more about having an independent advocate please tell your social worker or foster carer or contact:

Information Governance, Complaints and Consultation Support

Cleethorpes Civic Offices

Knoll Street

Cleethorpes

North East Lincolnshire

DN35 8LN

Tel: 01472 326427

Good luck and best wishes from all of us



Notes



If you would like a copy of this document in another language or a different format, such as Large Print, Braille or Audio, please contact:

Fostering and Adoption Service

Tel: (01472) 326292 option 2

Email: fosteringandadoption@nelincs.gov.uk