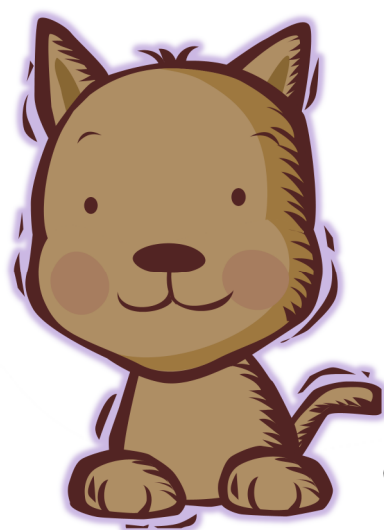
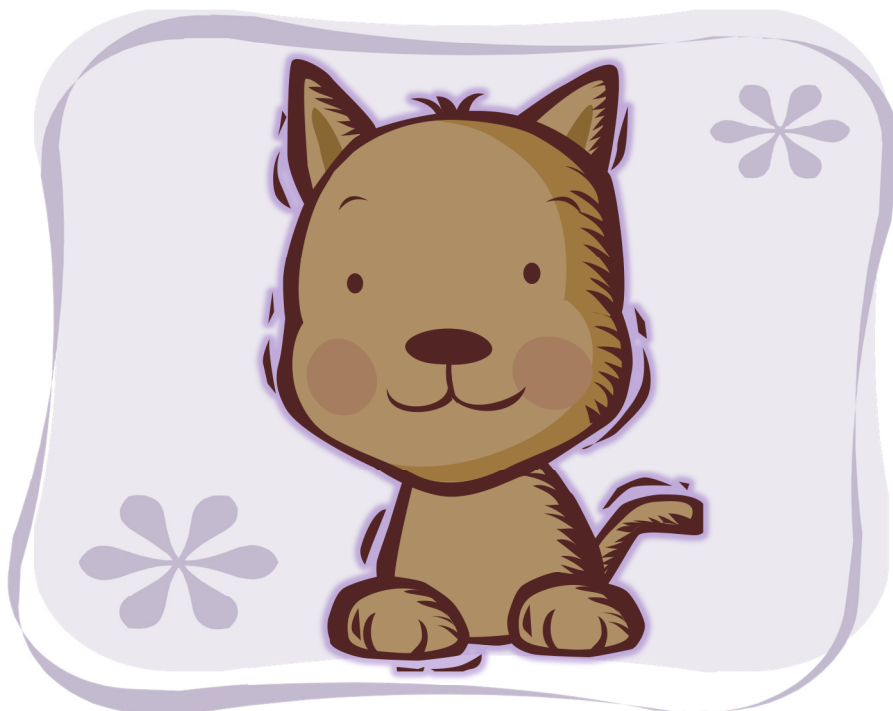


This is my
book all
about
adoption



**This book
belongs to:**

My Name:



Being Adopted

Why are children adopted?

If you can't live with your own family you will need a new family to look after you and care for you. Your social worker will talk to you about why you can't live with your birth family.

You may feel sad or angry because you can't stay with your own family. But being a mum or dad is not something that everyone is good at. Everyone needs to have a family to love them and look after them.

Here in Durham everyone who knows you will work very hard to find you a new forever family where you can be happy.

What makes you happy?



What makes you sad?



What does adoption mean?

Adoption means having a new forever family for the rest of your life. So this means that you will grow up in a new family, where you are safe, loved and well cared for.

Everyone in Durham who knows you wants you to be very happy in your new family.

What would you like your new family to be like?

Draw a picture here or ask someone you know very well to help write things down for you.



I would like my new forever family to be...



What will my new forever family be like?

There are all sorts of different families who want to be forever families for children.

Some families might have two parents, and this might be a mummy & daddy or it might be two mummies or two daddies.

Some families might just have one parent a mummy or a daddy.

Some might already have children and want to have more children to love and care for.



What will my new forever family be like?

Others might be waiting right now for a child to move into their home so that they can love and care for them.

Some families live in the town and others live in the country.

Your social worker will talk to you about all the different sorts of families and make sure that the family you go to live with is the right family for you.



What will your forever family know about you?

Your social worker and your foster carers will tell your new forever family all about you.

They will tell them what you like to eat, what fun things you like to do, what you like to wear, what time you get up and go to bed, what makes you happy and what makes you sad.

If you are at school or nursery your teachers will tell your forever family what you like, what you are really good at and what you need a little bit of help with.

Everyone wants to make sure that your forever family knows what is really important to you.



What do you want to tell your new forever family about you that is really important?

Getting to know your forever family

Your social worker and your foster carers will talk to you about your new family.

They will tell you all about the house they live in, who lives in their house and what they like to do.

Before you meet your new forever family they will send you pictures of their family, their house and your bedroom.

You will be able to meet your new family before you move in with them. It's really important that you all get on well together and like each other. You can talk to people you trust about how you feel about your new family.



Getting to know your forever family

You might want to talk to your social worker, your foster carers, your teacher or your friends.

If you are happy or sad about your new family or anything else that is happening in your life it is really important to let people know.



Who would you talk to about your new family?



Staying in touch with people you care about



For some children it is really important to stay in touch with some of their old family or foster carers.

This might mean that you get letters from or see people who you are very close to.

Your social worker and your foster carers will talk to you about how you and people who are very important to you can stay in touch with each other.

Remember everyone wants you to be safe, happy and really well settled in your new forever family.

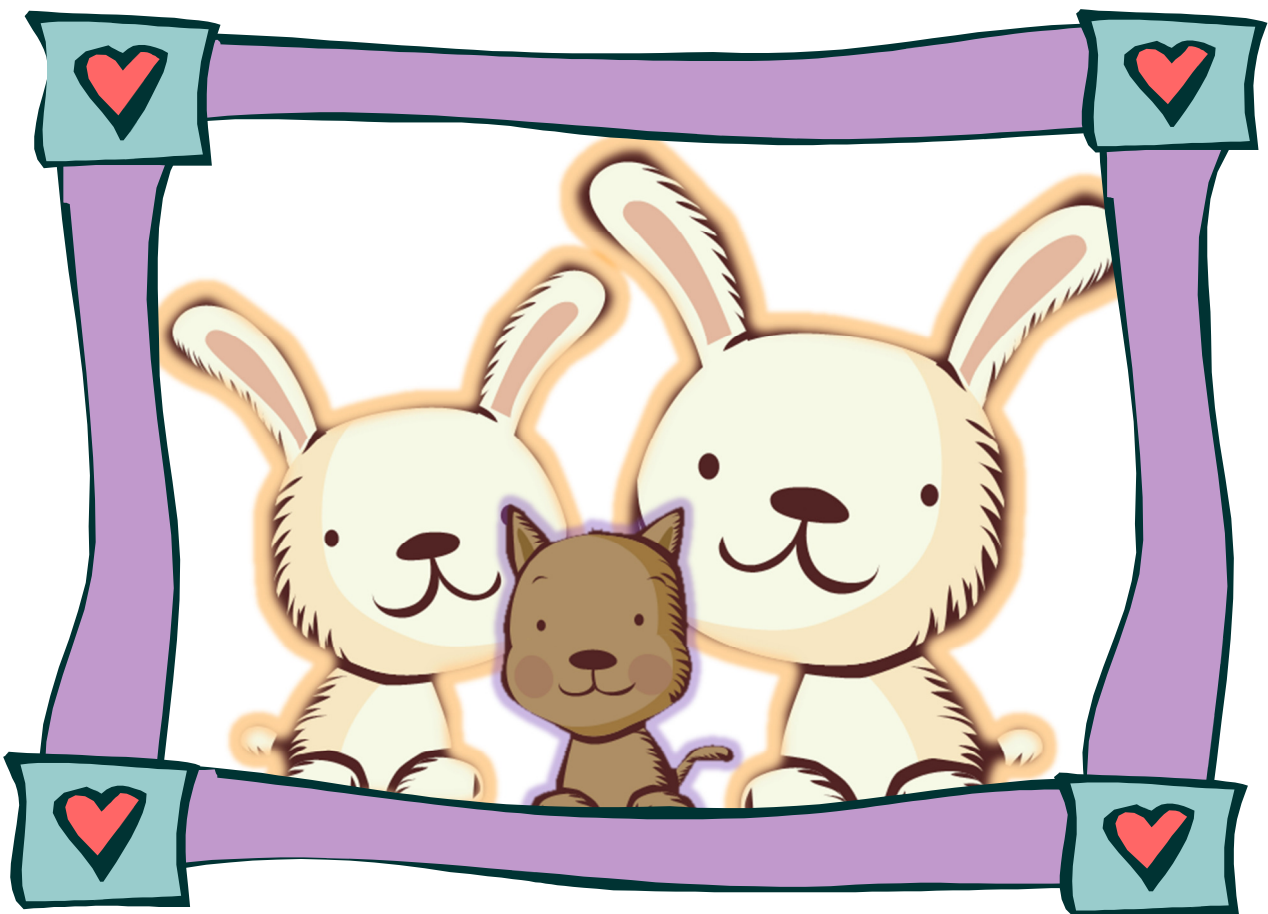
Who is really important to you that you want to stay in touch with?



After you move to your forever family

After you move to your new family your social worker will still visit you to talk about how you are getting on.

Remember it's really important to talk to your social worker or people you trust about how you feel, and anything making you happy or sad.



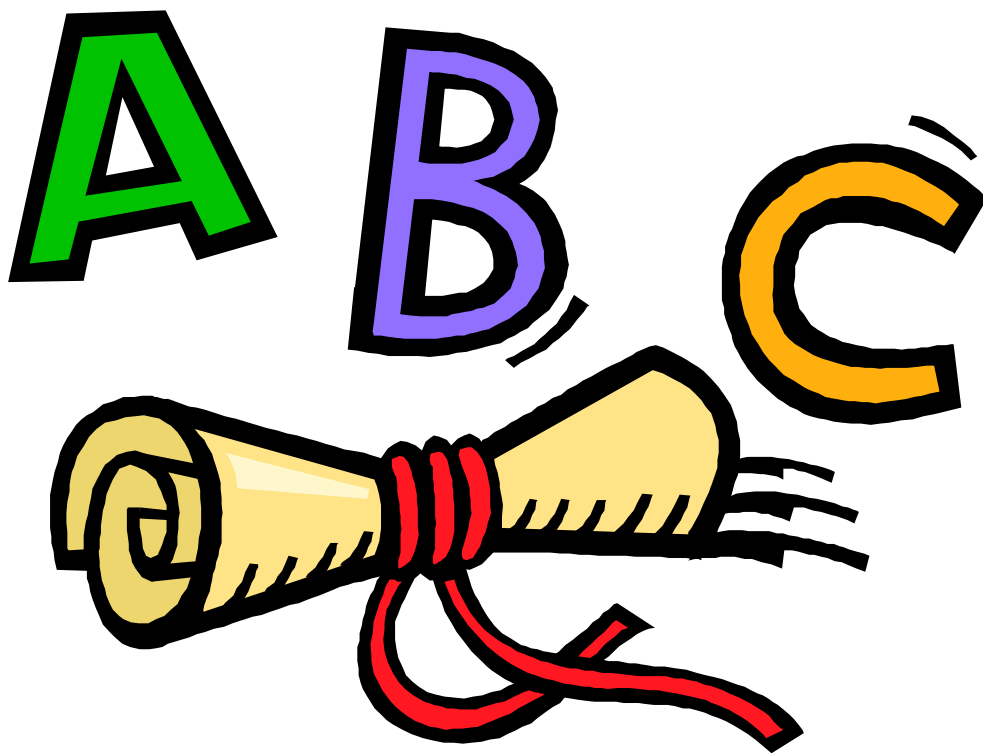
What happens after I move in with my family?

When you are settled and happy in your new family you will go to see a very important person called a judge.

The judge is a person who makes very important decisions about children and families.

You won't have met the judge before but he or she will know lots about you from your social worker, and your new forever family.

The judge will sign a piece of paper to agree that your new family can adopt you and this means that you can stay with your new family forever.



What other children who have been adopted say

This is a poem from a 7 year old boy who moved with his two younger brothers to live with a new forever family.

This little boy is now adopted and very happy with his new family.

This is what he has to say.

Happiness

Happiness is when I got a new mam & dad.

Happiness is when I got a new England duvet cover.

Happiness is when I got a nice new gran.

Happiness is when I do special things at the weekend.



What everyone wants for you.

Don't forget you have rights just like anyone else.

Everyone wants you to:

- ❖ Be listened to
- ❖ Kept safe from harm
- ❖ Enjoy good health
- ❖ Make friends in your home area and join in fun activities together
- ❖ Enjoy school
- ❖ Grow up and do a job that you like



What would you like to do when you are grown up?



People you can talk to
about adoption

Social worker



Your social worker is called:

His/her telephone number is:

A social worker is someone who helps children and their families when they have problems.

They will talk to you about what is happening in your life and they will listen to you about how you are feeling.

They also find new parent(s) for children who need them.

*People you can talk to
about adoption*

Children's Guardian



Your guardian is called:

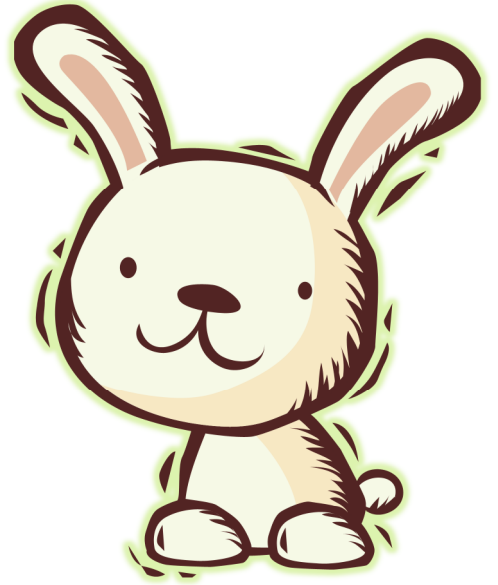
His/her telephone number is:

A children's guardian is someone who listens to your feelings about what is happening in your life.

They make sure the judge knows what you think about adoption and how you feel about it.

*People you can talk to
about adoption*

Foster Carers



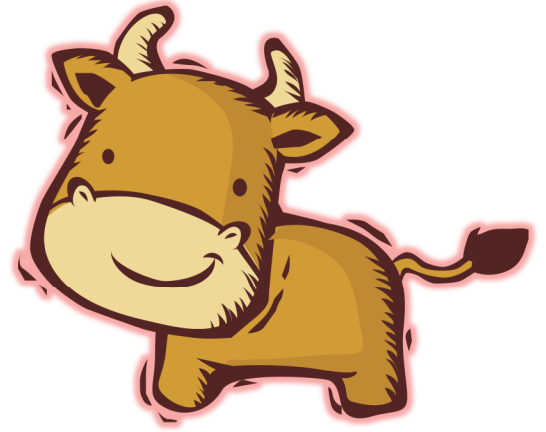
Your foster carers are called:

Their telephone number is:

Your foster carers will look after you until you move to your forever family. They will listen to you and tell your social worker how you are feeling.

*People you can talk to
about adoption*

Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)



Your IRO are called:

Their telephone number is:

The Independent Reviewing Officer will make sure your views are understood and taken into account.

Who else can I talk to?

You can contact these people to talk about adoption.

<p>Children's Rights Officer</p> <p>Supports children and young people across Children's Care to have a voice.</p> <p>Web: 03000 261 506</p>	<p>National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)</p> <p>Offer information, advice, advocacy and legal representation to children, young people and vulnerable adults.</p> <p>Tel: 0300 330 3131 Web: www.nyas.net Email: help@nyas.net</p>
<p>Childline</p> <p>You can contact Childline about anything - no problem is too big or too small. If you're feeling worried, scared, stressed or just want to talk to someone you can contact Childline.</p> <p>Tel: 0800 1111 Web: www.childline.org.uk</p>	<p>Children's Commissioner for England</p> <p>Promoting the views and best interests of children and young people in England.</p> <p>Tel: 0207 783 8330 Web: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk Email: info.request@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk</p>

Who else can I talk to?

Children's Rights Director for England Rights 4 Me

Spend lots of time listening to what children and young people who live away from home have to say about how they are looked after. If you live away from home then this is the place to find out about your rights and a way for you to be heard!

Tel: 0800 528 0731

Web: www.rights4me.org

Children's Legal Centre

Children's Legal Centre provides free legal information, advice and representation to children, their families and carers, as well as international consultancy on child law and children's rights

Tel: 08088 020 008

Web: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Ofsted

Ofsted inspect and regulate services which care for children and young people, and to those providing education and skills for learners of all ages.

Tel: 0300 123 1231

Web: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

After Adoption

If your life is affected by adoption you may be searching for answers to particular questions, or just want a little extra support from time to time. After Adoption can help you deal with the differences adoption can bring into your life.

Tel: 08000 568 578

Web: www.afteradoption.org.uk

Email: Information@afteradoption.org.uk