

Children's Guide Adoption Under 5

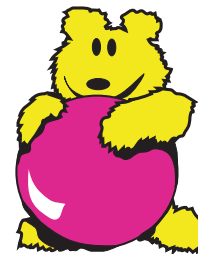
If you are not happy about what we are doing, ask a grown up to talk to your social worker. Their job is to listen to children in Herefordshire and try to help.

Maggie Atkinson
Children's Commissioner
020 7783 8830
National Advocacy Service
0808 8081001 or www.nyas.net.totalkonline

You can also ask someone to contact your Independent Reviewing Officer on 01432 260772.

You can also ask someone to contact Ofsted on 0300 123 1231.

Herefordshire Adoption Team
Moor House
Widemarsh Common
Hereford, HR4 9NA
Telephone: 01432 383240 or
Email: adoption@herefordshire.gov.uk



What we will do for you

We try to help families look after their children and keep them safe and happy.

But sometimes children can't live with the family they were born to and are adopted into new families.



Adoption means you grow up in a new family where you are safe, loved and looked after. You belong in that family for the rest of your life.



They become your new family. Social workers make sure your new family know how to look after you and keep you safe.

Your new family adopt you and keep you in their family forever, even when you are grown up.



What we must do

Remember you are only small but are **VERY IMPORTANT**.

We will keep you safe and look really hard to find you the **BEST FAMILY** we can.



We will always make sure you are happy with your new family before you move to live with them.

We will make sure we do our best for you and will ask other people to make sure we are doing a good job.



We will keep safe all the special things we know about you.

We will tell you how we are doing and ask you how you feel about your new family.



Children's Guide Adoption Over 5

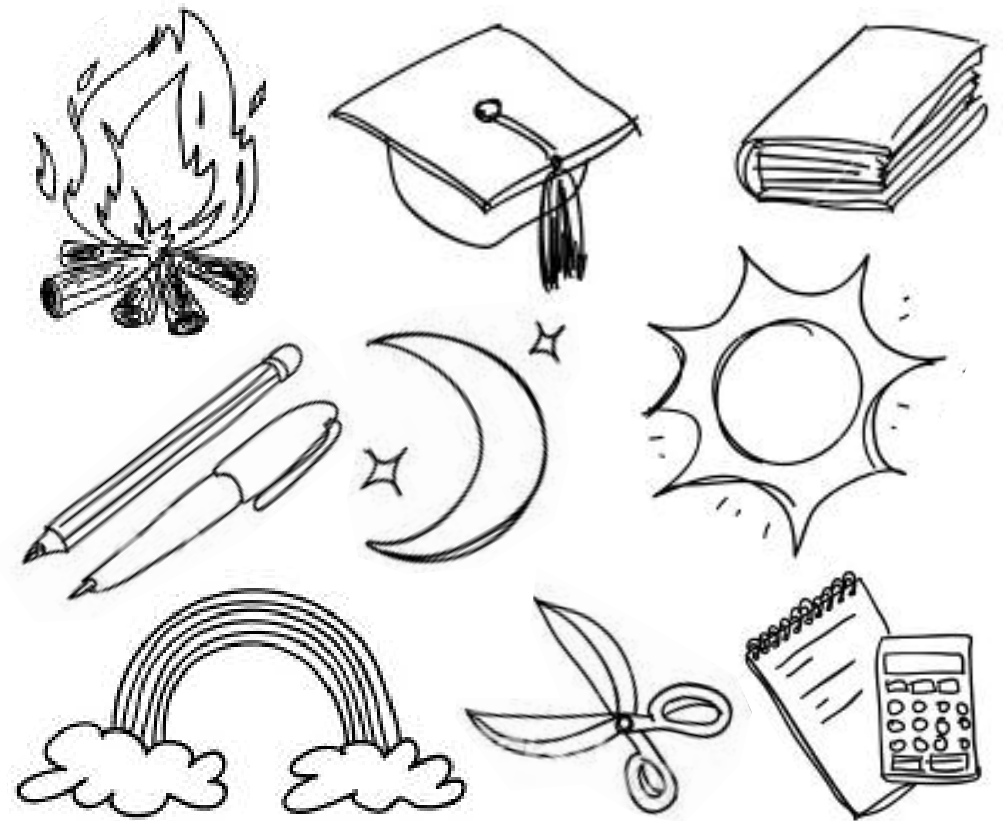
If you are not happy about how we are doing our job and want to talk to someone about it, please ask someone you trust - a teacher, your foster carer, social worker or a friend.

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This tells you what we want to do for you

We try to help families look after their children and keep them safe.

Sometimes they can't do this and so the children go and stay with foster carers while social workers try to help families learn how to look after their children.

Sometimes families just can't learn to keep their children safe and so new families are needed.



How will we find you a new family

We know lots of grownups who want to be mums and dads to children not born to them. Some would like to look after brothers and sisters together, some would like to look after just one child. We will make sure that we find the family that is right for you.

We will find out lots about you and the family you were born to and will ask people who know you well what sort of family you need to grow up healthy and happy.



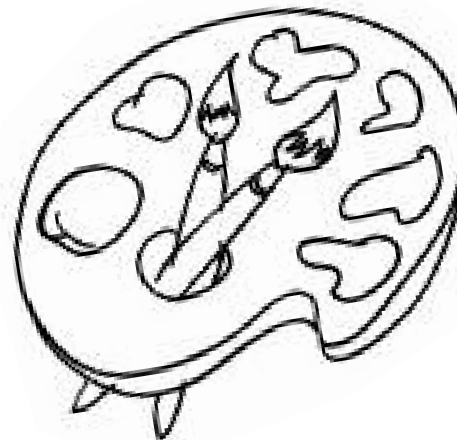
What we want to do

When we find the right family, we'll tell them about the family you were born into and why you can't live with them anymore.

We will make sure you get to know your new family before you go to live with them, by seeing photos or a DVD of them and where they live and by spending time with them.

We will make sure you are happy with your new family before you go to live with them.

We will do everything we can to make sure you and your new family care for each other and that they will look after you, take you places you like to go and help you with your school.



What we must do

1. You are the most important person. We want you to be happy and safe and will do everything we can to make sure this happens
2. We know it's hard to wait, so we will make sure you know how we are getting on. We will make sure you're ready to move to your new family. We know it's an exciting time, but a bit scary too, so we'll help you all we can.
3. We will tell your new family all about what has happened to you, to help them look after you. We won't tell other people unless they need to know, to help you. We will make sure all that we know about you is kept safe and private - when you are older, you can see all this.
4. We will talk to you about your new family, show you a DVD and photos and arrange visits to your new home before you move.
5. We will make sure we know how you are feeling about your new family.
6. We will ask other people who know about keeping children safe, to make sure we're doing a good job.