

# a is for adoption

A Children's Guide to Adoption



**This Children's Guide to Adoption is for younger children and it is designed to be read by a child's Social Worker or carer.**

# What is adoption?

Adoption means having a new family forever.





# Why are children adopted?

Sometimes, mums and dads can't look after children or keep them safe. But they do still love and care about them.

Babies and children are too young to look after themselves, so they need someone else to love and look after them until they grow up.





A very important person called a Judge will decide if your mum and dad can look after you, or if you should move to a new family.

Sometimes, children go to their new families with their brothers and sisters.

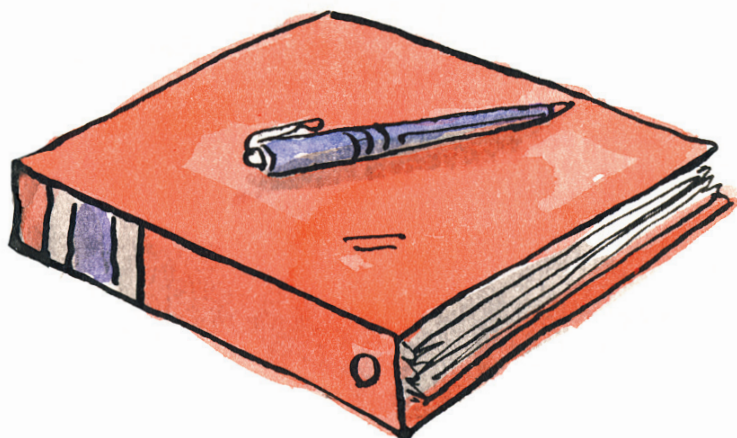
Sometimes, children send letters and pictures to their brothers and sisters.

I am going to my new family with:

---

I am going to send letters to:

---



**What would you like your  
new family to be like?**

Draw a picture here

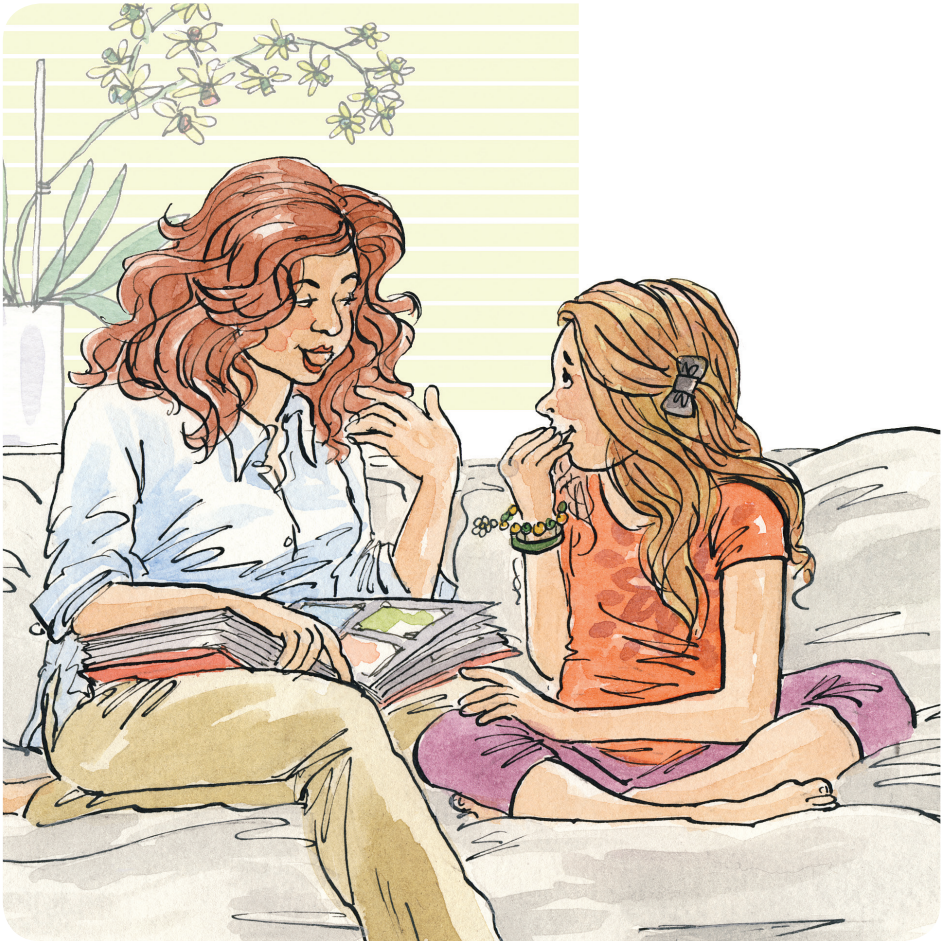


The grown-ups will choose a family for you that can look after you. They will make sure that the family looks after you properly until you grow up.





The new family will send you a book or DVD to tell you about them. You will be able to see your new house and your new bedroom. Your foster carer or Social Worker will tell you when they are coming to visit.



Your new family will come and see you and you will go and see them at their house.

Your foster carer or Social Worker will tell you when they are coming to visit.



Going to a new family can be exciting and a bit scary. It's okay to feel a bit muddled, but you can always talk to your Social Worker or foster carer.

## Moving in

If you are happy with your new family, the grown-ups will decide that you can move in. You will take all your toys and things that are special to you.





# Adoption Day

When you have lived with your new family a while, you will go to Court and meet the Judge. The Judge will hear how you are getting on with your new family and make an Adoption Order. This means that you can live with your new family forever!

This is a special day and you will do something special. When you get older you can find out more about your birth family and why you were adopted.



**Copies of this guide  
can be translated.**



**MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL**

Please recycle this when you have finished with it. This leaflet was printed on 100% recycled paper using vegetable-based inks.