I am going to be adopted...

what does this mean?



Now that you are going to be adopted, you might feel a little scared and confused. We hope this guide will answer some of your questions and tell you a little bit more about what adoption means for you.

You may want to read this on your own or ask an adult like your foster carer or social worker to go through it with you.

This book belongs to:

Draw a picture of yourself in the space below.				
About you				
How you feel is very	y important and we want to make sure that you are choose the right family for you.			
About you How you feel is very nappy, and that we like these things:	y important and we want to make sure that you are choose the right family for you.			
How you feel is very nappy, and that we	y important and we want to make sure that you are choose the right family for you.			

What is adoption?

Adoption is about belonging to, and growing up with, a new family when you cannot live at home.



Why am I going to be adopted?

All children need to grow up in a family with a parent or parents who will love them, look after them and care for them while they are growing up.

Sometimes your family are not able to do this, but this does not mean that they do not care about you.

What are adopters like?

Adoptive families come in all shapes and sizes. There may be just one parent or there may be two. Some have other children of their own. Some live in the town. Others live in the country. They could live in a big house or a small flat.

Your social worker will find out lots about you and will go and meet different families to find the one that is right for you.

Sometimes it takes a long time to find the right family, but your social worker will always talk to you about what is happening.



How does adoption work?

Step 5

Your social worker will talk to you about a new family and take great care to choose a family that suits you.

Step 4

If adoption is right for you, a court will allow your social worker to start finding you a new family. They aim to find you a new family within six months of the court decision. But sometimes this can take longer as it has to be the right family for you.



Step 3

If you cannot return home, a group of people called an adoption panel will tell the children's judge whether adoption is right for you. The special judge will also make sure that you get a chance to say what you would like to happen.

Step 2

If your social worker is very worried that your family can't look after you the way you should be looked after, they will go and ask a special children's judge and special children's social worker called a guardian to help decide whether you can return home.



Step 1

You live with a foster family.

Start

Step 6

When a new family has been found, the adoption panel also make sure that they are right for you.

Step 7



When your social worker has found you a new family, you will be able to ask lots of questions about them. They might even show you a special book or film about themselves.

Step 8

Now it's time to meet your new family. This will be at your foster family's house. It can be exciting but scary too.

Step 9

When you know enough about each other and are both ready, you will move into your new home.



Step 10

When you have lived with your new family for at least 10 weeks, your new family will ask a judge to make something called an adoption order. This means that you are now part of their family.



What if I am unhappy?

If you have any questions or worries about adoption, or what is going to happen, you must tell an adult. As well as your social worker or foster family, there are lots of people who you can talk to:

Independent advocate

If you would like to be speak to an independent advocate, please call 0800 027 4431 or text 07714412370. You can also write to The Children's Society in Oldham, 13 to 21 Brown Edge Road, Holts Village, Oldham, OL4 5QQ.

For more information visit:

http://sites.childrenssociety.org.uk/oldhamchildrensrightsservice

Children's Rights Director

You can also contact the Children's Rights Director who will help you to sort things out. Telephone 0800 528 0731 or write to Office of the Children's Rights Director, Ofsted, 33 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6SE. Or you can email theteam.rights4me@ofsted.gov.uk



How do I make a complaint?

If you are unhappy and want to complain you can contact an adult called a Complaints and Representations Officer. They will listen to you and take your complaint seriously. Call 0161 770 1129 or write to

Freepost, Complaints and Representations Officer, Oldham Council, PO BOX 4, Civic Centre, Level 8, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UL. Or you can email cypf.complaints@oldham.gov.uk'

There is also another adult called the Children's Rights Officer who you can talk to. If you would like to speak to the Children's Rights Officer, call **0161 633 5991**.

Your space

lease use this space to write down any questions that you want ask your social worker or foster family.						

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