

# Support for EP Carers

(This may vary depending on your area so please check with your assessing social worker)

## **While you are still in assessment (stage 2) but have decided you want to offer EP:**

- Social work support through your adoption SW.
- Peer support from other EP Carers – you can have your email and telephone number (and a brief description of where you are in the process) added to the EP Support Network List which is a confidential list of EP Carers who are happy to contact and be contacted by other EP carers in the region.
- Buddy link to other EP carers through your social worker.

## **Post Approval at Panel but prior to placement:**

- All the above and...
- [Support Through Early Permanence \(STEP\)](#) groups. CCS EP Carer support groups which are facilitated by an experienced EP Carer. The groups are currently held online via Zoom. Please see below for more information about the group.

## **During and Post Placement:**

- All the above and...
- Also note that the STEP group may be able to operate an EP peer support outreach visit to carers who have a child in an EP placement but cannot manage to attend the group. Please contact your social worker for further information if this is something you feel you would benefit from.

## **If the court grants a Placement Order:**

- All the above and...
- The adopters can now access all the adoption support offered by their Adoption Agency and the relevant local authority.

## **If the child returns to birth family:**

- All the above and...
- Enhanced Social Work Support
- Up to 6 sessions of counselling/therapy to help the EP family process the loss.