

# Support for Family and Friends of EP Carers

## **Family and Friends Training:**

Family and friends of EP carers play a vital role in supporting EP placements and we would advise those in this position to prepare themselves by attending the Family and Friends Training on offer both from [Adoption West](#) and [CCS Adoption](#). Whilst a lot of this preparation training will focus on traditional adoption there will also be additional guidance and information about early permanence placements and how family and friends can assist these placements. Ask the prospective adopter(s) you are supporting to book you on to their agency's session.

## **Support Through Early Permanence (STEP) Facebook Group:**

The FB STEP group is an on-line community for approved Early Permanence (EP) carers in the South-West Adoption Consortium (SWAC) area and their friends and family. This EP support resource is supported by CCS Adoption and is offered in addition to the physical STEP groups that it already holds at its offices and the EP Network Support List it disseminates and updates. We know that being an EP carer brings with it a unique set of rewards and challenges and so the aim of the group is to give EP carers opportunities to connect with each other, ask questions, share experiences, and support each other through the many ups and downs.

## **How to join the closed EP Facebook Support Through Early Permanence (STEP) Group:**

To join the FB STEP group, you need to have been approved (or recommended) at panel for EP (or be a close supporter of someone that has) and to have a Facebook profile. You can use your current Facebook profile or set up another that you use to just access the group. It is up to you. Remember that the group is closed and secret, no one can find it by searching for it on Facebook and the only way to be on it is to receive an invite from one of the moderators (see instructions below). Anyone applying to join will need to be verified as an EP carer (or a close supporter of someone who is) by CCS Adoption before an invite is sent out to them. You can therefore be sure that the site is safe and confidential.

If you wish to join, please follow the steps below:

### **STEP 1**

Send a FB friend request to one of the moderators:

- Kate Rainflower
- Christine Moonflower
- Katy Starflower

Each of the moderators has a picture of a teddy bear as their profile picture to help you recognise them and you can search for them on Facebook.

## **STEP 2**

Follow up this friend request with a private message to them stating:

- Your wish to join the Facebook STEP group.
- Your full name.
- The full name of the Early Permanence Carer you will be supporting.
- The Adoption Agency the EP carer you will be supporting is with.

With these facts we will be able to verify you as a close supporter of an EP carer and send you an invite to join the group.

## **STEP 3**

When you have received the invite to join the FB STEP group you will receive a Welcome Post which will ask you to read the Rules and Guidelines for the group. Please read these and then private message the moderator you receive the invite from to confirm you have done this and agree to abide by them.

If you have any questions about joining the group, please contact us at [info@adoptionssupportcentre.org](mailto:info@adoptionssupportcentre.org). Tel. 0117 955 8826 who will try to help.