



ccs adoption



ADOPTION INFORMATION PACK

The overall feeling is that I am in very good hands choosing to embark on this journey with CCS.

CCS Adopter

CCS staff are highly trained, competent, friendly and encouraging while maintaining professionalism with everyone they engage with.

CCS Adopter



www.ccsadoption.org

0117 935 0005

advice@ccsadoption.org

The Park Centre, Daventry Road, Bristol, BS4 1DQ

Jeśli nie mówisz po angielsku, możemy zapewnić tłumaczenie tego dokumentu.
Haddii aadan ku hadlin Ingiriisiga waxaan ku siin karnaa turjubaan dukumiinti ah.
یہ دستکسرک ہمارف ممچرت اک زیواشسد سا مہ وت یہ یتلوب یمن یزیرگنا پآ رگا
ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਨਹੀ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਤਾਂ ਅਸੀ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

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Welcome to CCS Adoption

Thank You for downloading this Information Pack. Adoption is an important step in your life that needs a great deal of consideration from the head and heart.

We always welcome conversations with people who are considering adoption. Whether you are in the earliest stages of exploring it or want to get started as soon as possible you can always give us a call at 0117 935 0005 and talk to our adoption adviser – who is an adoptive parent. Alternatively, join us at one of our regular [Information Events](#) and talk with social workers and adopters there. Or email us at advice@ccsadoption.org.

At CCS Adoption we have an “outstanding” Ofsted rating and work closely with local authorities to prepare, assess, match, and support you and your children. Our adopters often say they chose us because of the ongoing support we can offer throughout the adoption process and beyond.

In these pages, we want to show you what Adoption looks like now, tell you a little about the children who are waiting for families and talk about what it takes to be an adopter. We also want to share with you the stories from some of our CCS adoptive families about how they made their families through adoption and why they particularly chose us.

There is no such thing as a typical adopter these days and we are keen to spread the word that all sorts of people can and do adopt. Age, ethnicity, faith, marital status, or sexual orientation are not what determine if you will make a good adoptive parent. Rather, we look for warmth, flexibility, a child-centred approach, stability, security, and resilience as the qualities that will help most when you adopt your children. We hope very much to be hearing from you.

Best Wishes,



Emma Simpson

CEO



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Registered charity no. 286814
Registered charity: Clifton Children's Society

Thinking about Adoption?

If you are thinking about adoption, then there is a lot of information available. However, it's sometimes difficult to know where to start. Here are a few ideas...

Anybody in the early stages of exploring adoption should have a look at the resources on [First4Adoption](#) or [YouCanAdopt](#), which are both official, national information services for people interested in adopting. You Can Adopt has some recent [podcasts](#) covering a range of issues in adoption that are well worth a listen. There are some interactive quizzes and modules in the [First Steps section](#) of the First4Adoption site and some useful information sheets for adopters about starting the process and thinking about adoption in their [downloads area](#). Some people find it helpful to hear the adoption stories of others. We have a few of these [here](#) on our CCS website. Another website to explore is [Adoption UK](#) which is a national membership organisation and charity focused on supporting adopted children and people.

There are whole worlds of conversations about adoption on various social media platforms such as Facebook, X (previously Twitter) and Instagram. And of course, you can follow our social media posts about adoption and post-adoption support on Facebook ([CCS Adoption](#) and [The Centre for Adoption Support & Education](#)) & [Instagram](#).

LGBT+ prospective adopters will find joining [New Family Social](#) and following their social media pages and forum a useful and supportive place to learn about adoption and hear the stories of other LGBT+ adopters. CCS has a good track record in working with LGBT+ couples and singles and runs a monthly LGBT+ coffee morning.

Our adoption adviser often recommends that people read the book [No Matter What](#) by Sally Donovan, as an example of an adoption journey. And there is a very good podcast series on Radio 4 called [The Adoption](#) which explores an adoption through the eyes of the children, their social worker, their birth family and their adoptive parents. Adoption blogs also give a great idea of the joys and challenges of becoming an adoptive parent. Hannah Meadows' blog has a great [post](#) with advice for those considering adoption.

If you have read our [Can I Adopt](#) page, then you will hopefully have realised that there are very few absolute barriers to someone being considered as an adopter. However, it's fair to say that the adoption assessment process is very thorough and requires a lot of self-reflection about your past, your present situation and what your future might look like with adopted children. There is no such thing as the "perfect" adopter but ultimately, we will be looking for evidence of these positive qualities.

It's a good thing when you are starting to think about whether you believe you have these and then how you can show evidence of them to your social worker:

- **Tenacity** – Many adopted children have no stability or guidance in their early lives. They will need positive boundaries in their lives which need to be reaffirmed again and again.
- **Willing to Learn** – Parenting an adopted child is different to parenting a birth child. All adopters need to undertake learning around therapeutic parenting, and the needs of the children they care for. Adopters who are willing to learn will take the best of practice and make it their own – reading, watching, training, and listening.
- **Resilience** – You will need to carry emotions for your child sometimes, and need to talk the difficult talk about why your child was adopted and what may have happened to them before

they came to live with you. You will need to prove to them you can cope with anything, as they need your resilience to enable them to build their own.

- **Empathetic** – Adopted children come from a range of backgrounds, and many have experienced early traumas. Empathising with this and seeing the world through their eyes will support them to learn and grow into a positive understanding of themselves and others. Empathy towards their past and how it may shape their future will be essential.
- **Good Advocate** – Your child may well have difficulties “out there” away from home, be it socially, educationally, physically, or emotionally. Your job on occasions will be to go out there and fight for what they need.
- **Flexibility** – Flexibility is one of the key attributes of being a successful adopter. Flexible during your assessment, flexible about the type of child you may consider, flexible in how you approach parenting and flexible in meeting the needs of your child.
- **Good Sense of Humour** – Although parenting a child through adoption is no laughing matter, it does not mean it has to be serious all of the time. The most successful adopters are those who can laugh at themselves and find humour in difficult situations.

You can find out about our next Information Events [here](#) where you can come along and speak with adopters and social workers about what it is like to adopt and ask any questions you have about your particular situation.



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What is Adoption?

Adoption gives a child a new family when living with their own family is not possible. It is a way of giving a child who has had a difficult start, a second chance at childhood – a legal process and permanent commitment which should be undertaken after careful examination of the head and heart.

Adoption is a way of providing families for children, creating a new relationship that can provide the long-term security and love that children need. In adoption, we always seek to put the needs of children first.

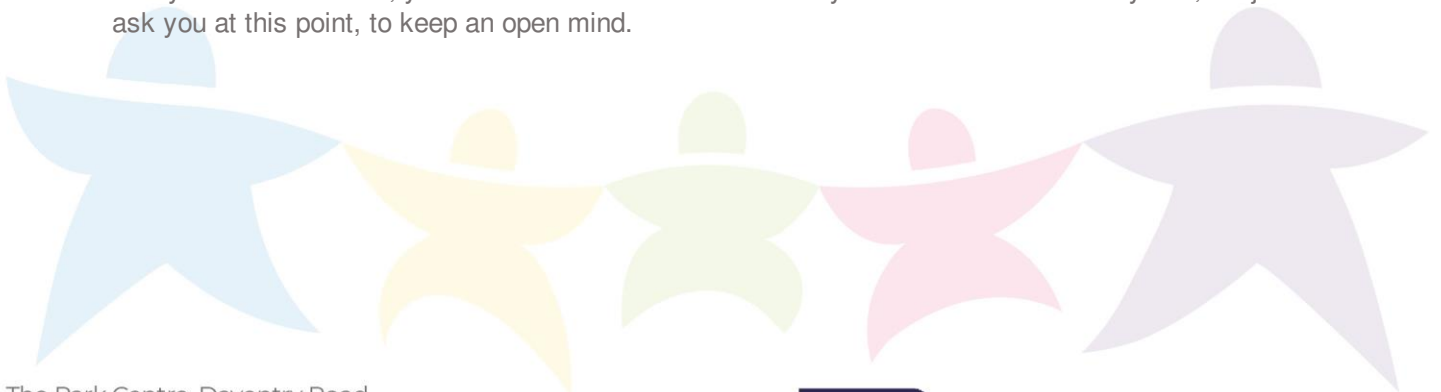
A total of 2,980 children were adopted in 2022. You can find out more about the legal aspects on the [government website](#) relating to adoption. There are very few absolute barriers to adoption but to hear the answers to some of the typical questions we are asked, view our [FAQs page](#).

Besides the traditional route to adopting children who are currently in foster care, there is a growing practice called [Early Permanence](#) (sometimes also referred to as Concurrency, or Fostering for Adoption) which CCS has been at the forefront of promoting and developing. We were the first adoption agency in the country to be awarded a quality assurance mark for our work in developing Early Permanence.

We know from research that it is damaging to children if they are moved any more than is absolutely necessary around the care system from carer to carer. Permanence is needed for children to thrive. Early Permanence is a practice that aims to reduce the number of moves a child in the care system potentially makes. A young child or brother and sister group, but often a baby, are placed with adopters who are also approved foster carers and when a legal decision is finally made about the child's future and adoption is the plan, then these adopters will go on to become the child's new parents.

However, if the courts decide that the child should go back to their birth family then they will return the child, happy in the knowledge that they have given them a secure start and built a positive attachment. Early Permanence takes a very child-centred person, where the adults take the risk, but it has huge benefits for the children. For more information read this book of [Early Permanence](#) stories we compiled.

If you choose to adopt with CCS, you will be asked to explore whether Early Permanence might be a route you would consider taking, alongside the more traditional route to adoption. If, after discussion with your social worker, you decide that this route is not for you then that is absolutely fine, we just ask you at this point, to keep an open mind.



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Why Choose CCS Adoption?

If you have decided that you want to apply to adopt you then have a choice about who you do this with.

You can choose between adopting with your Regional Adoption Agency (RAA)/Local Authority (LA), or with an independent Voluntary Adoption Agency (VAA) like CCS. If you want to find out which agencies might cover your postcode then visit the [YouCanAdopt](#) agency finder. The process and guidelines are laid down by the government and are the same for both, although there are some [differences](#) that you should be aware of:

- LAs/RAAs have several children in care whom they are looking to place with adopters. Their team will in the first instance look at the children in their care and then if there is not a suitable match, will look to other agencies.
- A VAA, like CCS, trains, assesses, and approves adopters and then finds children for these adopters from across the country. At CCS we work with you to find your children whether they are near or far and have experience working with LAs across the country.

Since 1904, CCS has found new homes for over 2,300 children.

Here are the main strengths that we offer:

- CCS is the only adoption agency rated Ofsted Outstanding in the area and has been so for the past four inspections over the last 13 years. You can find our most recent Ofsted report [here](#).
- Lifelong relationships – When you adopt with CCS you will be assessed and supported by a social worker who, once you are approved, will likely be the same person who then finds your children and takes you through all the stages of them joining your family. Our adoption social workers have almost 120 years of experience working in adoption between them.
- CCS employs a large number of adopters and people whose lives have been touched by adoption. Many of us have been where you are now, and we understand how it feels.
- CCS families can call on not only “their” social worker for support but also, should they need it, our [Therapeutic Services Team](#), run by CCS and funded through the government’s [Adoption Support Fund](#).
- CCS runs [The Centre for Adoption Support and Education](#) which all our families have access to its wide range of activities, all designed to support you and your adoptive family.

Adoption Advisor

Becky is our adoption advisor and brings her own experience of being an adoptive parent to her role. She is available to help you explore adoption, to answer questions and provide guidance. To get in touch please call 0117 935 0005 or email advice@ccsadoption.org.

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Who are the Children Waiting for Families?

The children who are waiting for families have all had a difficult start in life. They have been removed from their birth families by social services because of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect. They are living in foster care until a permanent adoptive family can be found for them.

There are about 2,210 children in England who are waiting for a new, forever family. About three-quarters of these are under 4 years of age and the majority are waiting to be adopted with at least one brother or sister. Their additional needs, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds vary. Children from minority ethnic backgrounds wait the longest for families which is why we are particularly keen to talk with prospective adopters who are also from a minority ethnic background, or who are in a position to adopt transracially. What all the children have in common is that they have had unsettled, difficult early lives and have been taken into foster care while they wait for their new families.

In 2022-2023 the average age of the children that CCS found new families for was just under 3 years old. And in 2023-24 we found families for 21 children. Below are some example profiles of typical children. Their names and some of their details have been changed to protect their identity. If you would like to read further profiles of children then click through to our [About the Children page](#).

Read [here](#) some of our adopters' adoption stories.

Watch [here](#) some adoption videos.



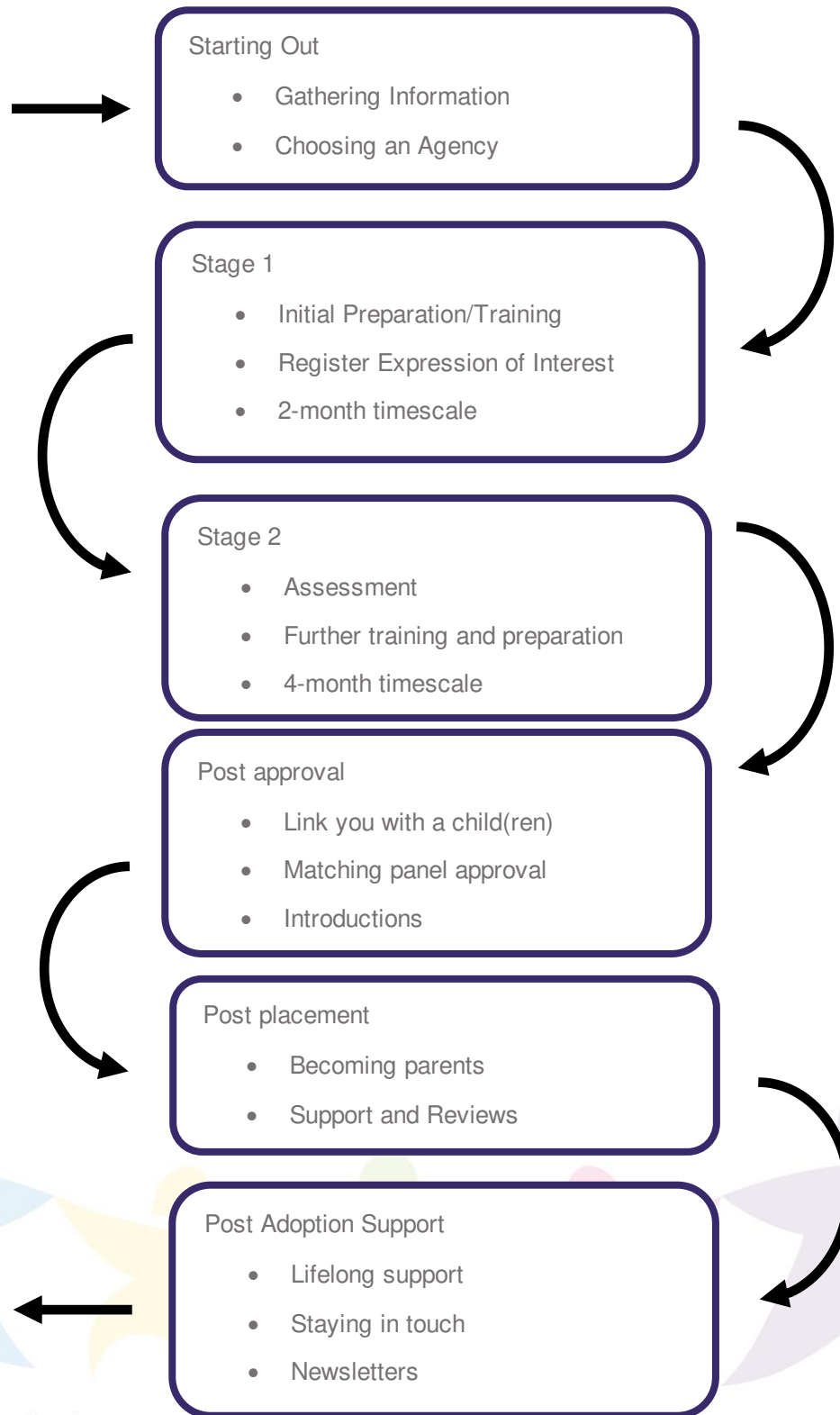
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Understanding the Adoption Process



Post Adoption Support

Once a child's adoption is finalised, the parents have a choice to request help and support as and when they need it. This could be anything from needing a listening ear after a difficult time, to help with choosing schools, or finding therapy for a child. We would hope that having built a relationship with us, you would trust us and value our experience to ask for this support as you needed it.

CCS also runs [The Centre for Adoption Support and Education](#) where you can find a wide range of [groups, courses & workshops](#) and [social events](#) that are all designed to connect and support adoptive families. Our [Therapeutic Service](#) at The Centre works in partnership with local authorities and the [Adoption Support Fund](#) to provide a range of therapies for adoptive families as and when they are needed.

At CCS, our social workers stay with a family from assessment through family finding and introductions to after adoption wherever possible. We are certainly always here for you and your adopted child from the early years to much later on in life, since we recognise that the impact of adoption can be lifelong.

Next Steps?

We hold regular online [Information Events](#), where you can hear and speak with adopters and social workers about what it might be like to adopt. You can book yourself into one of these by following the booking process online or contacting us. Additionally, we offer adopter chats with Becky, our adoption adviser, before or after these events, which provide the opportunity to discuss any particular and personal aspects in a 1-1 environment.

You can always call us on 0117 935 0005 and speak to Becky, our adoption adviser, who is also an adoptive parent, about any aspect of adoption, or your situation as a prospective adopter.

If you want to continue with your enquiry now, please contact us on advice@ccsadoption.org. Becky will then be in touch with you as soon as possible to discuss next steps.

Adoption can seem daunting, and it is certainly one of the most important decisions you will make in your lifetime. That's why we take seriously our responsibility to ensure that you are as well prepared and supported as possible.

We hope to offer you every opportunity to think, reflect, learn, and share, both with other applicants and with experienced adopters so you can make the best decisions for you and your family.

Some Useful Reading about Adoption

[“No Matter What”](#) by Sally Donovan is written by the author about her own experience adopting two young children and highlights, the challenges, and joys of adoptive family life.

[“Big Steps for Little People”](#) by Celia Foster. Parenting your adopted child.

[“Proud Parents”](#) by Nicola Hill. Lesbian and gay fostering and adoption experiences.

[“Looking after our own”](#) tells the stories of adopters from an ethnic minority background, edited by Hope Massiah. Explores their motivation to adopt, what their social workers had to offer, the roles of their friends and family and what adoption has meant to them.

[“Adopting a brother or sister”](#) by Heidi Argent, a guide for young children. Helpful for families who have a birth child or children.

[“Therapeutic Parenting in a Nutshell”](#) by Sarah Naish of the National Association of Therapeutic Parents.

[“A Child's Journey Through Placement”](#) by Vera Fahlberg.

[“First Steps in Parenting the Child Who Hurts: Tiddlers and Toddlers”](#) by Caroline Archer.

Other well-respected authors of adoption books include [Dan Hughes](#), [Dan Siegel](#), [Bruce Perry](#), [Kim Golding](#), [Margot Sutherland](#), and [Karyn Purvis](#).

Give Us Your Feedback

CCS welcomes feedback so please get in touch if you have any comments or complaints on 0117 935 0005 or email info@ccsadoption.org or post CCS Adoption, The Park Centre, Daventry Road, Knowle, Bristol, BS4 1DQ.

For further information, please read the [CCS Adoption Complaints Procedure](#).

*This Information Pack is available on our website www.ccsadoption.org to download. When read digitally you can link through to other places via all the text underlined. You can read our Privacy Policy - Families [here](#).

