



Adoption  
My new Family  
And Me



My name is.....

## Adoption. What does it mean?

Everyone has a birth family. That is the family who cared for you after you were born.

Sometimes birth families cannot look after their children and keep them safe so a new family has to be found for you. It might a mum and dad, a mum, or a dad or even two mums or two dads. The important thing is getting the right family for you.

This is called your adoptive family. Your social worker and lots of other people have to find a new family who can look after you and be there for you for the rest of your life

Adoption is a legal thing. A judge has to listen to your social worker and decide about you going to live with a new family who can look after you forever.

Do you know what a judge is?.....



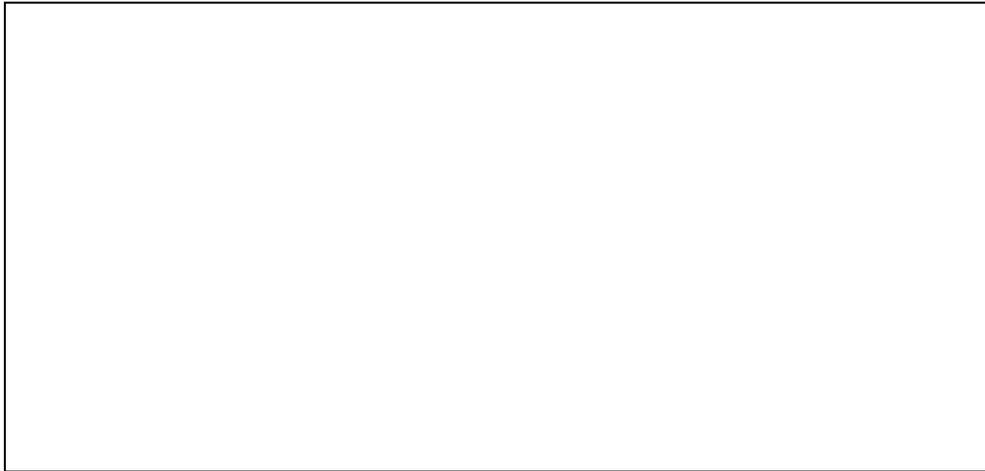
Parents can be lots of different people and the judge decides who they can be.

Who is in your new family? .....

Do you have new brothers and sisters?

What are their names?.....

Can you draw a picture of your new family?



What is fun about your new parents? Can you think of three things?

1.....

2.....

3.....

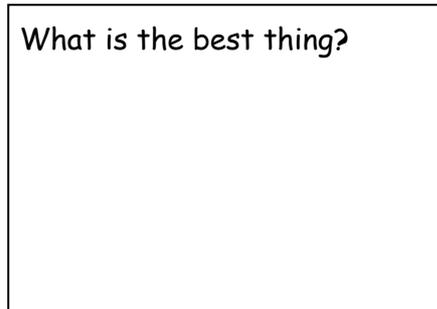
What is not much fun?

1.....

2.....

3.....

What is the best thing?



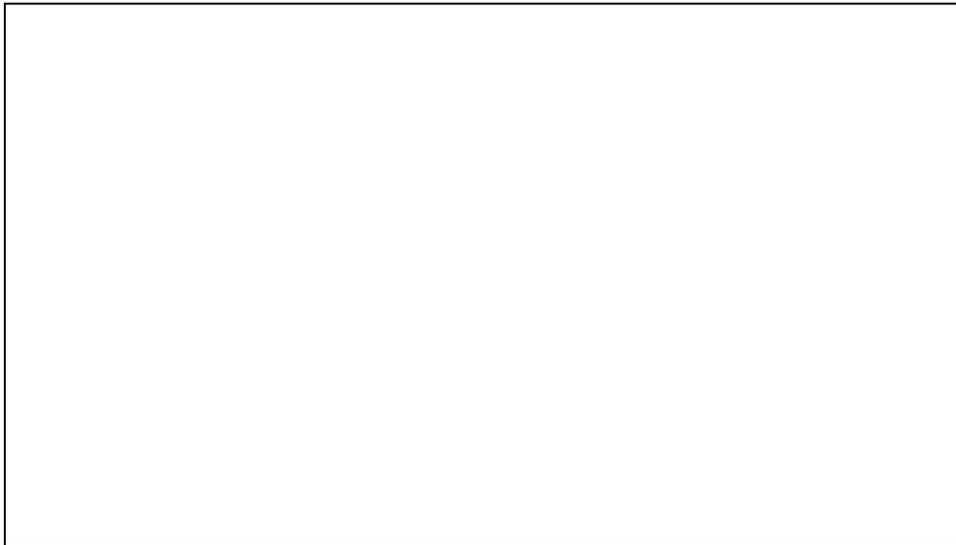
Who else have you met in your new family?.....

.....

.....

What do you call them?.....

Perhaps you could draw a picture of them here. All together.



What is your new home like? Have you got your own bedroom?

What things do you have in your room? Can you draw them?



Who is your social worker? Can you write their name here?

.....

What does your social worker do for you? Can you think of three things?

1.....

2.....

3.....

Has your social worker spoken to you about your new family? Sometimes your social worker might want to see your new bedroom and talk about all the things you like and dislike but they are only doing it to make sure you have everything you need to grow up.

Sometimes there will be a meeting at your house so everyone can say how well you are doing and to ask if you have everything you need. It is all about you. Have you been to one yet? It is called a review meeting. Your Independent Reviewing Officer will be there and wants to hear how things are going for you. Your social worker will be there and also your new family's social worker from DFW Adoption. Do you know who this is?

.....



What kind of things do you think people might ask at your meeting? Can you think of three?

1.....

2.....

3.....

Even though you are living with your new family now, everyone wants you to stay in touch with your birth family as well. This is usually done by writing a letter to them. They don't know where you live now but your social worker will help your new adoptive family stay in touch with them if that is the right thing to do. People call this post box contact.

You might want to help write a letter but it is ok if you don't and it is nothing to worry about. If you are worried about anything do you know who to talk to?

.....

Has your social worker spoken to you about your special adoption day? This is the day when you go along with your new family to meet the judge. It's called a Celebration Day. It's not scary. He or she will be wearing some smart clothes but they might ask if you would like them to wear a gown and wig just like the picture on the second page. The wig looks funny doesn't it?

Do you know what happens on your Celebration Day?

Can you think what might happen?

.....  
.....

Once you have had your Celebration Day you can live with your new family and no one can ever change that. That is why it is such a special day for you and your new family.

We hope you will always be very happy in your new family but if there is something upsetting you, you can talk to someone about it and they will listen to you.

If you are not adopted yet:-

You can talk to your own social worker.

Their name is:

Here is their telephone number.

The address is

.....  
.....

Your Independent Reviewing Officer is

Their telephone number is

You can also talk to a social worker at DFW Adoption.

Our telephone number is 0191 386 3719

Our email address is [office@dfw.org.uk](mailto:office@dfw.org.uk)

Our postal address is DFW Adoption, Agriculture House, Stonebridge, Durham  
DH1 3RY

You or your parents can talk to our manager if you want to. She is called Irene Redshaw. You can talk to Irene if you are unhappy about your worker or how they are trying to help you. You can ask your parent or teacher to help you contact her.

Her phone number is 0191 386 3719

Her email address is [Irene.redshaw@dfw.org.uk](mailto:Irene.redshaw@dfw.org.uk)



You might also want to make sure that everyone here at DFW Adoption is doing everything right for you. You can find out by contacting the people at OFSTED.

You can write to them at

OFSTED, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD

Or you can telephone on 0300 123 1231

It is very important that you are listened to and to know your rights, you can also contact:

The Children's Commissioner for England, The Office of the Children's Commissioner, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT

You can telephone on 020 7783 8330

[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

**Any of the people mentioned in this booklet will help you make sure you are listened to and will help you get an independent person if you want one to make sure your rights and feelings are considered properly.**

This is your page to write down anything you wish to or to put a photograph on.

