

- Lingala**
Mokanda ya ndakisa mpo na babokoli ya Bana
- Turkish**
Evlât Edinme Konusunda Çocuklar İçin Rehber
- Amharic**
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- Vietnamese**
Hướng dẫn Trẻ em về Nhận con nuôi
- Creole**
Pekin Rhode toh Adopshon
- Bengali**
শিশুদের দত্তক বা পালক নেওয়ার নিয়মাবলি
- Portugese**
Guia de crianças sobre a adopção
- Spanish**
Guía sobre la adopción permanente, para niños
- Yoruba**
Itónisónà nípa wíwà ní ipò òbí fún omọ elòmíràn
- Eritrean**
- French**
Guide d'adoption pour Enfants
- Igbo**
Usoro ikuru umuaka
- Chinese**
收养之儿童指南
- Albanian**
Manuali i Udhëzimeve të Adoptimit të Fëmijëve
- Luganda**

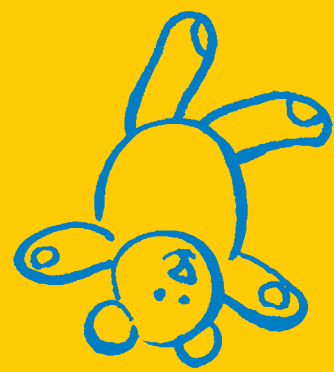


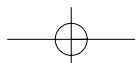
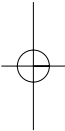
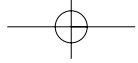
This guide can be made available in any language please ask your social worker for a copy in your language.

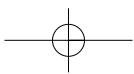
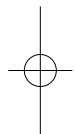
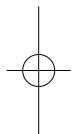
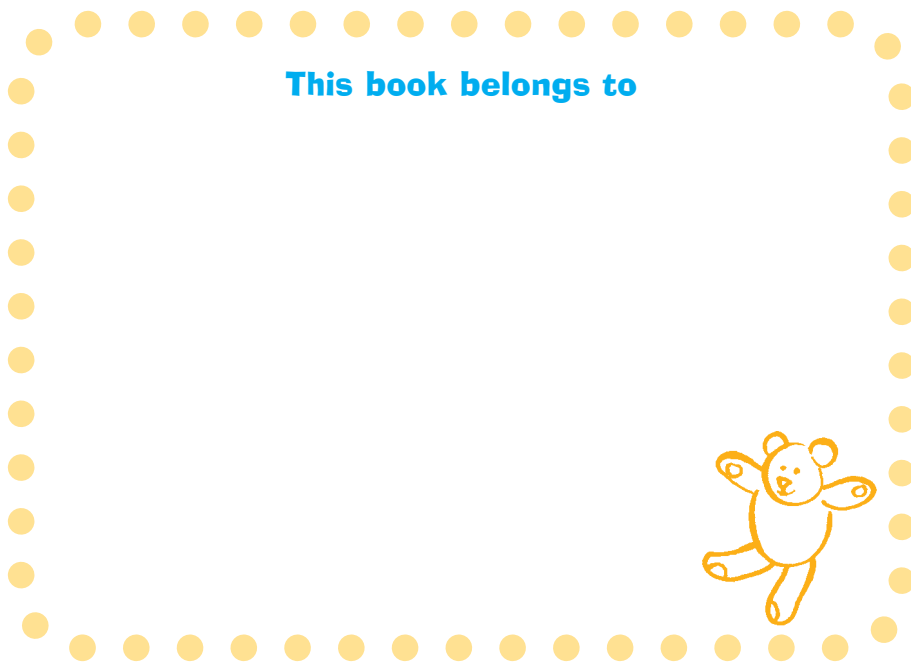
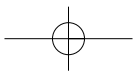


Children's Guide to Adoption

(0-10 years)

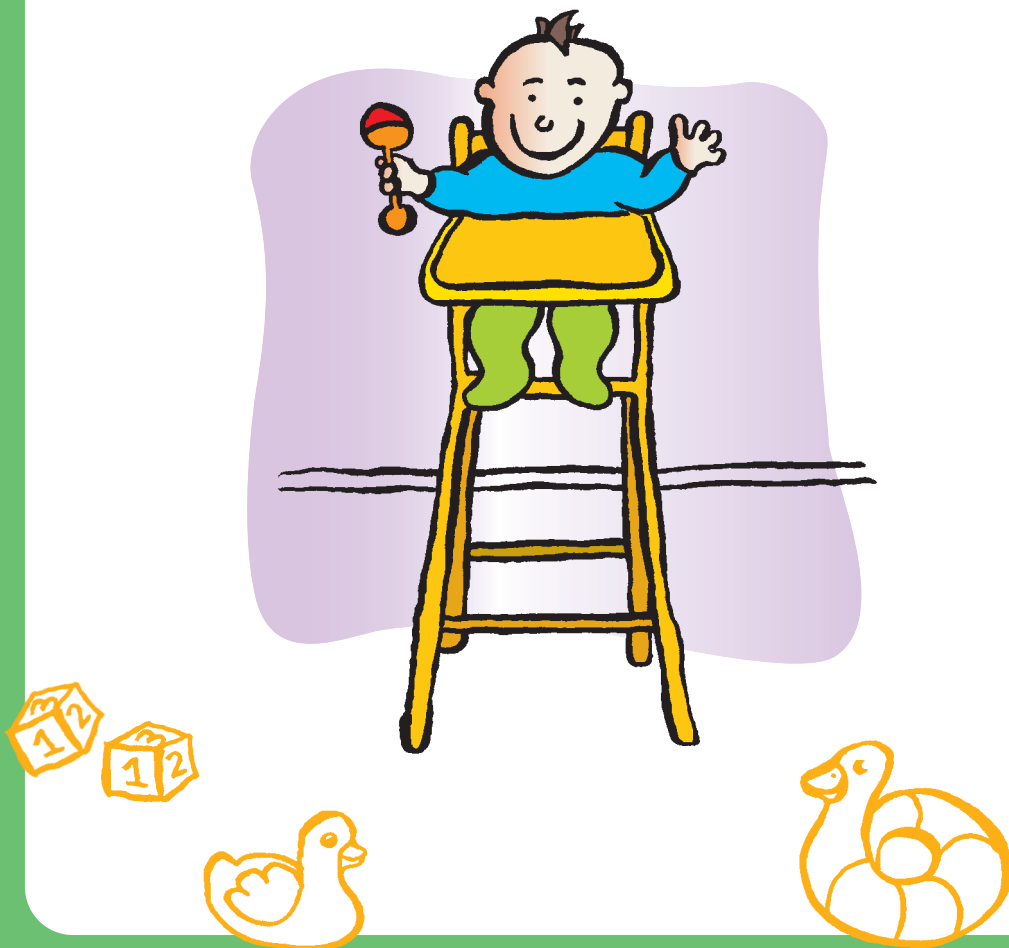






Moving to an adoptive family can be confusing. This is a guide to help you understand what happens. Southwark Children's Services hopes this book is helpful, remember if you have any questions you can talk to your social worker, carer or an adult you trust like your teacher.

Contents of this guide forms part of the Statement of Purpose for the Southwark Adoption Team.



What is adoption?

If you can't live with your birth family, the plan may be for you to be adopted. Adoption means you grow up in a new family where you are loved, kept safe and cared for.



Their home will be your home and you will be part of their family.

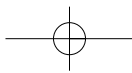
Why can't I go back to my birth family?

Your mum or dad are not able to care for you and keep you safe, therefore it is not okay for you to live with them. It is not because you have done anything wrong; it is because your mum or dad can't look after you safely.

Who gets adopted?

Hundreds of children are adopted every year. Some are babies, lots are boys and girls and some are teenagers. Some children come from another country to be adopted here. Because all children are different adopters are different too, so that children can be adopted by adults who are similar to them.





Who decides I am going to be adopted?

The court decides whether you should be adopted. A judge listens to your parents, your social worker and your Children's Guardian. Everyone tells the judge what he or she thinks about the adoption plan.

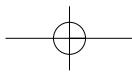
Sometimes your parents think it is best for you to be adopted, sometimes they tell the judge they don't want you adopted.

Sometimes your social worker believes you can't live safely at home so the best plan is for you to be adopted.

The judge decides whether the adoption should go ahead, even sometimes when your parents don't agree.

What is a Children's Guardian?

A Children's Guardian is someone who listens to your feelings about what is going on. They make sure the court knows what you think and feel about adoption. You can trust them and talk to them.



Who can I talk to about adoption?

You can talk to your social worker or your Children's Guardian or anyone else you trust like your teacher or the person that attends your review meeting.



Your social worker and Children's Guardian will make sure you know what's going on and make sure you have someone to talk to.



Who chooses my new family and how long will it take?

Children's Services know about the people who want to adopt a child like you.

It can take a long time to find the right family for you...sometimes more than a whole year. The adoption social worker will visit a family lots of times to make sure they can look after you well.

Not all families are the same. In some there is just a mummy, others have two mummies, a mummy and daddy or two daddies.

Everyone wants a family that is best for you.

This is what happens:

- A new family tells social services they want to adopt a child like you.
- A special meeting, called a panel, agrees they are a good family for you.
- You meet your new family and take time to get to know them.
- If everyone is happy you go and live with them in their home.



Can I see my birth family?

Your social worker will tell you if you can carry on seeing your birth family once you are adopted. Sometimes you will meet up with your birth parents and brothers and sisters, if you have any, one or two times every year.

If you don't see your birth family a letter can be sent telling them how you are getting on. Your new mum or dad will help with this.

You will have pictures and information about your birth family in your life pack or life history book, which you can look at whenever you want to remember.



What if I don't want to be adopted?

You should tell your social worker or Children's Guardian. They will talk to you and explain how you feel to the judge.

The judge may not always make the decision you want – but it will be what the judge believes is best for you.

If you are unhappy about the plans that are made for you or anything else you can tell somebody.



This is called making a complaint. Your foster carer or social worker must help you. You can also have an Independent Advocate, who is someone different from social services, to support you.

The telephone numbers you will need are at the back of this booklet. There is also a separate form for making a complaint.

What happens next?

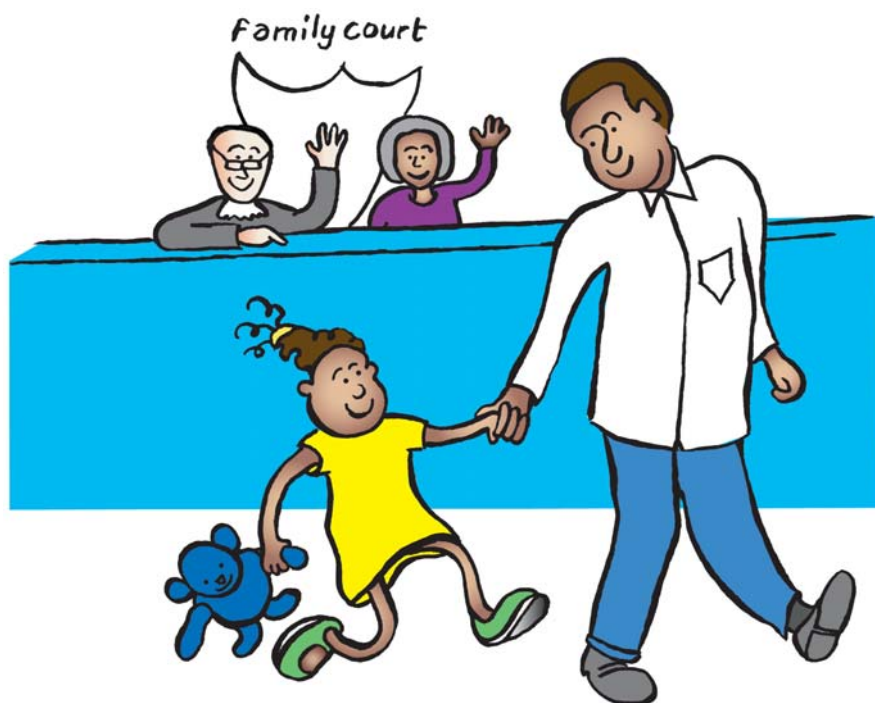
After moving in with your new family your social worker will still visit you. It can take time to get used to living with a new family so when everyone feels the time is right a very important day arrives – this is your adoption day.

The court makes a date for your whole new family to visit the judge. It is a special occasion, so you go too!

There are two kinds of court.

One is a criminal court for people who may have done something wrong. The other is a family court, where the judge and magistrates helps sort out family problems. They want children to be safe.

Adoptions are made in a family court.



If the judge is sure you are happy with your new family they go ahead and make an Adoption Order.



This means that your new family becomes yours by law, and you can call them your own family forever.



