

# ACE CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO ADOPTION SUPPORT

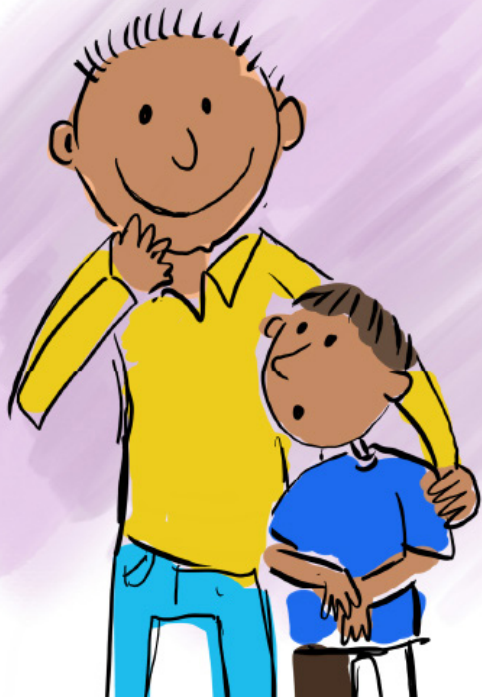


# ACE CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO ADOPTION SUPPORT

**ACE stands for Adoption Central England and we are here to provide support for our adoptive families.**

When you have been adopted into your new family, we hope that everything will go well for all of you. We want all children to be healthy and safe and to be able to get help if they have any questions or worries.

We know that being an adopted child may not always be easy and there might be things that you don't understand or that you would like help with. If you would like to talk to someone about having some extra help and support, you can talk to a grown up who will be able to get in touch with us.



# WHAT IS ADOPTION SUPPORT?

**If things are not going well at home, or at school, we want to help you. Here are some things you may want to contact us about:**

- *someone to help you to talk to your family;*
- *someone to talk to if you are wanting to understand more about your birth family;*
- *helping your family to understand more about your adoption;*
- *helping to make school life feel less tricky;*
- *questions or thoughts about the letters or any other contact you may have with members of your birth family;*
- *talking about your feelings; sometimes you might feel angry or sad or just not know how you feel;*
- *to meet other children who are adopted; we run picnics and walks and other activities several times a year.*

Now might not feel the right time to talk to someone about how you are feeling, but this guide can give you some ideas for whenever you feel ready.

## **HOW CAN WE HELP?**

**You should begin by talking to your family or you may choose to talk to a family friend, teacher or another grown up that you trust.**

Sometimes it helps to talk to a person that isn't in your family. Your parents can also contact ACE Adoption Support Team to see if we can help. We have special workers who work with adopted children and their families.

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU CONTACT US?**

**One of our adoption workers can explain all the different ways that you and your family can get the help that you need.**

This will mean spending some time talking to you and also speaking with your parents. If ACE can't give you the help or advice you need, they can contact someone who can.

# HERE IS HOW YOU CAN CONTACT ACE ADOPTION SUPPORT TEAM

Our Advice Line is open **Monday - Thursday**  
**9.30am - 4:30pm** and **Friday 9.30am - 4.00pm.**

Telephone: **0300 369 0556**

If we are unable to speak to you straight away, you can leave a message and your number, and we will get back to you.

Email: **[enquiries@aceadoption.com](mailto:enquiries@aceadoption.com)**

We want to know what we are doing well or what we could do better, so please let us know. You can contact **Louise Hathaway on [louisehathaway@aceadoption.com](mailto:louisehathaway@aceadoption.com)**



# WHO ELSE CAN SUPPORT YOU?

**The following organisations will help to make sure that your views are heard, if you don't think that you are being listened to.**

- **Coram's Children's Legal Centre**  
Telephone: **020 7713 0089**  
Address: **1 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ**  
Website: **[www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)**  
*Coram Children's Legal Centre, part of the Coram group of charities, promotes and protects the rights of children in the UK and internationally in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.*
- **Coram Voice:** *an advocacy service*  
**0808 800 5792**  
**[www.coramvoice.org.uk/alwaysheard](http://www.coramvoice.org.uk/alwaysheard)**  
*this is an advocacy service.*
- **National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS):**  
Telephone: **0808 808 1001**  
Website: **[www.youngpeople.nyas.net](http://www.youngpeople.nyas.net)**  
*The NYAS advocacy service gives children and young people information about their rights. They can help you make complaints if you are not happy and they can also help you to have a voice and be heard when decisions are made about you.*
- **Children - be heard and find out about your rights.**  
*Office of the Children's Commissioner*  
Telephone: **0800 528 0731**  
Email: **[advice.team@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:advice.team@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk)**  
Address: **The Office of the Children's Commissioner,**

**Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street,  
London SW1P 3BT**

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

*The Children's Commissioner's role is to protect the rights of all children in England, and to make sure that children and young people have a say and are listened to when adults are making big decisions about things that affect them. The Children's Commissioner for England listens to what children and young people have to say about how they are looked after.*

- **ChildLine:** Freephone: **0800 1111**

Website: **[www.childline.co.uk](http://www.childline.co.uk)**

*ChildLine counsellors are trained staff and volunteers who all have experience of listening and talking to children and young people about their worries or problems.*

- **CAFCASS:** Cafcass stands for Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service, but we use Cafcass because it is much shorter and easier to say. They work with children and young people in family court cases and make sure that children's voices are heard and decisions are taken in your best interests. A useful website about adoption and your rights: **[www.cafcass.gov.uk](http://www.cafcass.gov.uk)**

- **Ofsted:** Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. They inspect and regulate services that are provided for children and young people. They can be contacted via email at **[enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)** or by telephone on **0300 123 123**

# **A PLACE FOR YOUR THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS!**

**What I would like people  
to know about me -**

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**Questions I have about my adoption -**

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**My ideas on what might help me -**

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