

The Team at Yorkshire Adoption Agency



Hi I'm Gina, the Manager at Yorkshire Adoption Agency.

I work with a team of Adoption Social Workers.

Our job is to work hard to find new families for special children just like you, who for some reason can't live with their birth families. The family who are chosen will become your **adoptive parent[s]** and you will be their **adopted child**.

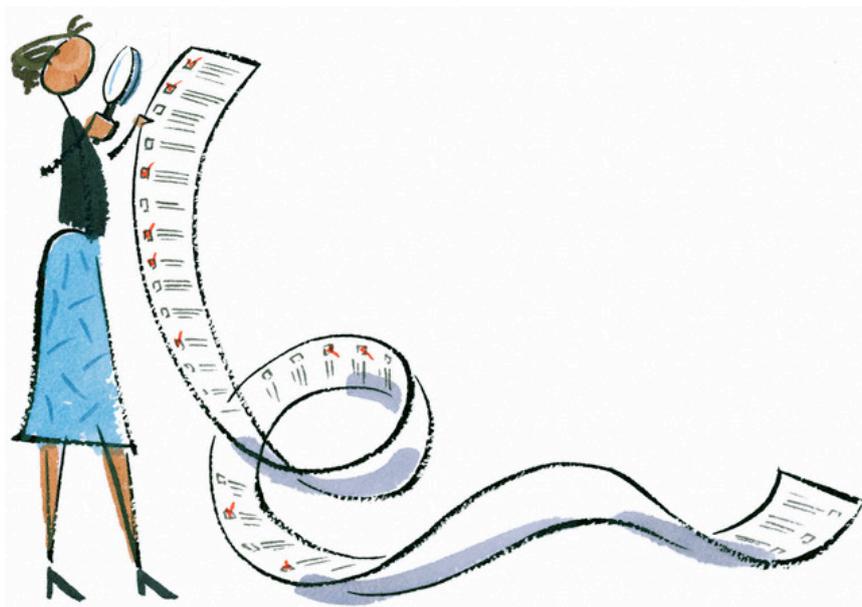
We find families in all sorts of ways.

We talk to people who want to adopt and find out all about them.

We make sure they know what adoption means and that they are able to keep children safe.



This is all written down on a very long form that can take about 6 months to complete!



This important information on the form is then looked at by a group of people called the

Adoption Panel.

They check if people would be good as adoptive parents.

A person called the Agency Decision Maker then has to agree.

The people that become approved as adopters then have to wait to see if they are the right family for a child, just like you, who needs to be adopted.



YAA Adoption Panel

When a family is found for a child, the plan goes back to another **Adoption Panel** and they make sure that the family is the right one for the child.

When a child goes to live with their new family, we visit the family to give them advice, just in the same way your **Social Worker** will visit you.

When you lived with your foster carers there were meetings called reviews to make sure you were being looked after properly and that you were happy.

Your Social Worker went to these meetings as well as another Social Worker called an Independent Reviewing Officer

The meetings will continue when you move to live with your new family, until the very wise Judge decides that you can live with your family forever and be legally adopted.

You can contact your Reviewing Officer at any time if you are worried or want to speak to someone outside of the family.

How to contact them is at the back of this book.



After a child is adopted, we will continue to offer any help that the child or the family may need.

Here is a list of the support that we can give you once you are placed for adoption or after you are adopted.

- Life Story work to help you understand why you couldn't live with your birth family.
- Help in school.
- Someone to talk to if you are having any problems. This can be a Social Worker or a Support Worker who understands all about adoption
- A chance to meet other adopted children

When adopted people become adults, they sometimes want to know about their birth family and some want to meet them if they can be found.

Social Workers can help these people to find their birth relatives and organise a meeting if this is seen as the right thing to do.

YAA could find someone to help you with this.



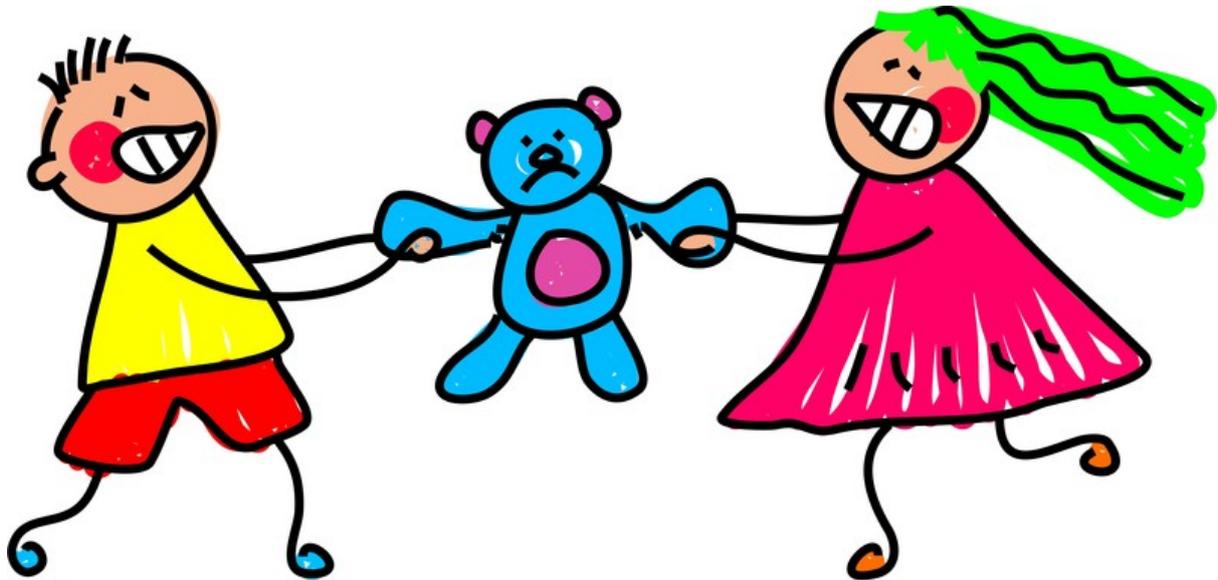
There are lots of children just like you who need to be adopted.



Most of birth families are sent a letter every year from adopters. This letter lets your birth family know how you are doing and helps them to understand that you are being well looked after. Your birth parent[s] might write back and your adopters will keep the letters for you until you are ready to read them. We can help you and your adoptive parent[s] to talk about what your birth parent[s] have sent in their letters



What happens if you have a problem or you are unhappy?



YAA tries very hard to do a good job and there are people who check to make sure that we are doing our best for you and your family.

If at any time you are unhappy about something there are lots of people you can talk to.

If you want to make a complaint or are unhappy, please talk to someone you can trust.

This might be

- Foster carers who used to look after you
- Your adopter[s]
- Your Social Worker
- Your family's Adoption Social Worker
- Your Independent Reviewing Officer

- Your teacher or another adult at your school
- Your friends mother or father

When you talk to somebody you might feel a little bit better.



We will do all we can to help you sort out your problem

But if you are still unhappy, please **tell someone** because there are a lot of people who might be able to help.

If you want to get in touch with anyone at YAA

Call: 01302 638337

E-mail us: info@yorkshireadoptionagency.org.uk

Our address is:-

Yorkshire Adoption Agency

Loversall Court,

Clayfields,

Tickhill Road,

Balby,

Doncaster,

South Yorkshire

DN4 8QG

If you want to contact the people that make sure we are doing things properly; they are called OFSTED.

Their address is:

OFSTED

Piccadilly Gate

Store Street

Manchester

M1 2WD

You can telephone them on 0300 123 1231

You can e-mail them: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

As a child you have rights and you can find out about them from:-

The Children's Commissioner for England

The Office of the Children's Commissioner

Sanctuary Buildings

20 Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Telephone 020 7783 8330

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Well that's about all I need to tell you for now.

All of us at YAA would like you to know that we hope you will be really happy with your new family and we are here if you ever need us.



Best wishes

From all in the Yorkshire Adoption Agency Team





My Social Worker's name is.....

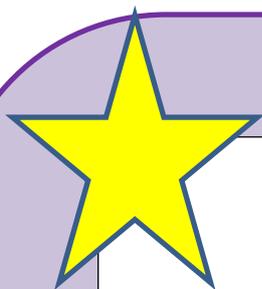
Their Phone number is.....

My Adopter's name is.....

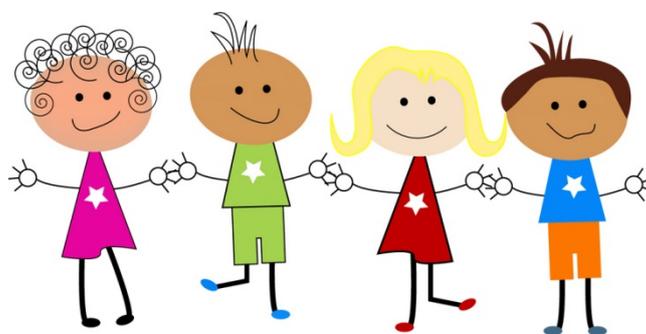
Their Phone number is.....

My Independent Reviewing Officer is.....

Their Phone number is.....



Adoption, Adoption Support & Me!



Yorkshire Adoption Agency

