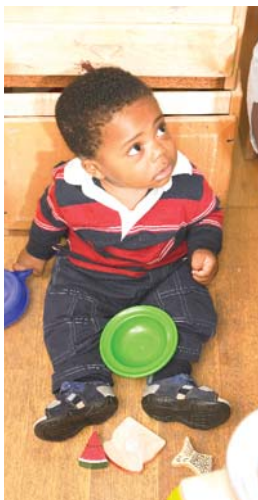


Black Children Need Black Families Can You Help?





Which children need families?

We believe it is important to find black families to adopt black children. Black children often wait longer to find families from a similar ethnic, racial and religious background to adopt them.

There are black and mixed parentage children of all ages (including babies and toddlers) who need families. They all need the love and care of a permanent family where they can grow up and belong, feeling comfortable with their identity and culture.

Who Can Adopt?

- Single people as well as couples.
- Families in flats or houses, as long as there is space for a growing child.
- Those on low income or benefits, as well as those in full time employment.

We welcome enquiries from black and bi-cultural families who live within either a 35 mile radius or one hour travelling distance of our three offices in London, Cambridge and Shepshed (off junction 23 of the M1)



How long does it take?

It usually takes about eight months to go through the procedures and to be approved, as it takes time for us to get to know you and for you to find out what is involved.

Then it is a question of waiting for the right child to be linked with your family. Sometimes this happens quickly. Other times it takes several months, but such big decisions should not be rushed.

When does your child come to stay?

You and your child have the chance to get to know each other over a few weeks before he or she comes to live with you.

And what happens next?

After your child joins your family, your social worker will keep in touch to support you while your child settles. We are also available to provide support over the years as your child grows up.

Once your child is adopted, you will have the full legal responsibility of parents.



Contact with birth relatives?

All children need to understand their roots, so it is often important for children to have some contact with their relatives, sometimes this includes their birth parents. This could be by letter via a confidential address or more direct contact. We will help you work out what is right for your child and you.

Is there any financial help?

- If you are employed you will be entitled to an adoption allowance and up to 12 months adoption leave (not all of it paid).
- You can claim Child Benefit.
- The Local Authorities responsible for some children (usually children with special difficulties or brothers and sisters) will give additional financial support.

Please talk to us if you are worried about finances as it may be possible to apply for financial support.

“So many older teenagers who get into trouble with the law have grown up in care. If babies and children who don’t have their own families could be adopted by loving parents, they would grow up strong and able to cope with life. We could really make a difference to the community.”

What do you like about being adopted?

“Having love, and having a family. When I go to bed to have kisses and hugs. I love all my family every day.” **Joshua 6** ^{3/4}

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Further information can be found on our website www.coram.org.uk