

“We heard that it would be better for the child, and that’s what really influenced us. We were struck by how much children move around in the care system before they get adopted. If they move less, that makes it easier for us adopters as well.”

***Vanessa, early permanence carer**

“With early permanence the adopter has the chance to make a difference in a child’s life from such an early stage and that is immensely satisfying. For the birth family it gives them the best possible chance of turning their lives around whilst maintaining a relationship with their child, or - if it ends in adoption - having the comfort of knowing the person who will be bringing up that child.”

***Jo, early permanence carer**

“We both felt incredibly well supported and informed; at every stage the social worker will ring or we will have a conversation face-to-face. I have heard how good they are with supporting you way down the line when the child is older, from people who have adopted through the scheme.”

***Keith, early permanence carer**

*Names changed to protect identities



Contact details

Find out more about early permanence:

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Coram London’s Concurrent Planning was rated as Outstanding in its most recent Fostering Ofsted inspection.

Three centuries of better chances for children

Coram is the UK children’s charity that has been helping vulnerable children for almost three centuries. We now help a million children and young people every year.

Our vision is that every child has the best possible chance in life, and our mission is to develop, provide and promote best practice in the support of children and young people.

Coram helps children and young people develop their skills and emotional health, finds adoptive parents and upholds children’s rights, creating a change that lasts a lifetime.



Early permanence for babies





What is early permanence?

Early permanence (EP) is an innovative service that aims to speed up the process of adoption or return to birth families for very young children. Early permanence is also known as 'Fostering for Adoption' and sometimes as 'Concurrent Planning'.

Coram's EP scheme places babies and children under two years old with EP carers while plans for their future are being decided by the family courts. During this time the children are fostered by their EP carers. Some children will need to see their birth parents regularly while the court proceedings continue.

If the courts decide that the birth family has shown that they are capable of meeting the needs of a child, the baby will be returned to their care. Their EP carers will have the satisfaction of knowing that they gave these children love and security when they needed it, and helped them to settle back into their own families.

However, the majority of these babies are unlikely to return home. If the court's decision is that the birth family will not be able to provide the security and care that is needed, the children will then remain with their EP carers and can be adopted by them.

Why choose early permanence?

The great advantage for the babies concerned is that if they cannot go back to their birth family, it will prevent them having to suffer the upset of moving from a foster home where they have settled, to an adoptive family. They will be able to put down roots and bond with their new parents from a very early stage.

For the majority of EP carers who go on to adopt, the advantage is that they will have got to know and love their children from a very young age, and will have helped them through the early, unsettling months when plans were still uncertain.

We are looking for loving families who are emotionally resourceful and can put the needs of very young children first.

What we need

- Families from a range of backgrounds and religions
- Single parents as well as couples
- Families with their own strong support networks
- Families who are child centered and able to manage risk



What we offer

- Special training – two days of tailored workshops in addition to the general adoption preparation groups
- Intensive and high quality support
- Fostering allowances are paid during the period that EP carers foster
- Supervision of visits with the children's birth families in cases where the court directs that contact should take place

Why choose Coram?

Coram is one of the UK's leading adoption agencies. We specialise in placing children with complex needs who are currently being looked after by local authorities.

We provide ongoing support to the families and children we have placed for as long as they need us.

Contact Coram to find out more about early permanence, and to consider whether this might be a good way for you to build your family and to help a child.