

How To Refer Children

Adoption Activity Days are an addition to the existing range of family finding and matching practices. They allow for prospective adopters to directly meet a range of children waiting to be adopted in a prepared, supported, safe and fun environment. Adoption Activity Days are entirely child-centred, predominantly an activity day for children, and the most important factor is that the children have a really fun day.

At an Adoption Activity Day children will have the opportunity to meet other children who live with foster carers and to meet families who would like to adopt. Adoption Activity Days are also an opportunity for children to be actively involved in their family finding process. Providing preparation for attending an Adoption Activity Day is undertaken honestly and sensitively with the child, the event can help children to shape their own pathway to permanence.

In order to be referred to an Adoption Activity Day the child must:

- be subject to a Placement Order or have the prior permission of the Court or birth parents with Parental Responsibility (*Please note that where an Order is not in place the child's circumstances should be discussed CoramBAAF before a referral is made and where the child has been relinquished for adoption, formal parental consent to placement must be given or the birth parents with Parental Responsibility must be asked to consent to their child participating*);
- be cleared for publicity about them to be used in this context (*the Adoption Activity Day is a closed event and although parental permission would not normally be needed, good practice may dictate that they are informed*);
- be subject to an agreement that funding for an interagency placement is available.

In addition:

- The Social Worker's manager supports the making of the referral.
- The child's Social Worker is able to undertake the necessary preparation work with the child and is able to produce a profile for the child.
- The child's social worker will make a commitment to attend the Adoption Activity Day, to support the child before, during and after the event, and to follow up any resulting expressions of interest promptly.
- The referring agency is committed to preparing the child's foster carer to attend the Adoption Activity Day and throughout the preparation process.
- The child's foster carer is willing to be involved in supporting the child before, during and after the event.