Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	History and legal perspective	3
	The origins of Adoption Activity Days	3
	Adoption parties in the USA	6
	Adoption Activity Days: the BAAF pilot project	6
	The Government's adoption reforms in England	8
3	Adoption Activity Days: their place in family-finding	13
	Some early results	16
4	The principles and values that underpin Adoption Activity Days	17
5	A risk or a resource?	18
	Managing common concerns	18
	Why Adoption Activity Days are an important resource in family finding	22
	Finding families for black and minority ethnic children	24
6	Managing the risks	26
7	Benefits of Adoption Activity Days	28
	For children	28
	For adopters	29
	For foster carers	30
	For social workers	30
8	Planning and preparing for an Adoption Activity Day	31
	Working in partnership and collaboration	31
	Lead-in time	31
	Setting up a steering group	32
	Preparing key stakeholders	33
	Planning a budget	34
	Identifying a venue	34
	Completing a risk assessment	36
	Event staff (volunteers)	37
	Planning activities	38
	Identifying children to attend an event	39

	Identifying adopters to attend an event	41
	When adopters and children are already linked	43
	Managing numbers – getting the balance between adults and children	43
	Managing referrals	44
	Information sent out before an event	45
	Checklist of administrative tasks	45
	Confidentiality	46
	Preparing and writing profiles	46
	The importance of a good photograph – a picture paints a thousand words	49
9	Preparing everyone for an Adoption Activity Day	51
	Children	51
	Foster carers	54
	Adopters	57
	Children's social workers	60
	Adopters' social workers	61
10	Managing the day	62
	Structure of the day	63
	Feelings and reactions on the day	64
	Comment cards	73
	Expressions of interest	73
	Managing media interest	74
11	After the event	75
	Debriefing	75
	Talking to children after the event	75
	BAAF follow-up of expressions of interest on the day	76
	Importance of following up enquiries	76
	Feedback	78
	Gathering statistics	79
	Feedback meeting	79
12	Last words	80
	References	84
	Appendices	
	Adoption Activity Day Checklist	85
	Adoption Activity Day Risk Assessment – an example	88
	A single Adoption Activity Day in focus	99