

# Advice Line Q&A

## Transition for a disabled child

### Question

I wondered if you would be able to suggest where I can find any resources/guidance for an adoption transition I am planning please. The child is 5 years old with a diagnosis of autism and global developmental delay, as well as being pre-verbal. The prospective adopters are not local and live approximately 4 hours away. I have some ideas already about how the transition will be planned, using a lot of sensory items to introduce the new family, however, if there is any written guidance or resources for children with additional needs transitioning, it would be great to be aware of them.

### Answer

There is not a great deal of written material specific to transitions for disabled children but the following resource may be of interest:

- CoramBAAF's book 'Ten top tips – placing disabled children' (2015) by Hedi Argent. Available from our bookshop here: <https://corambaaf.org.uk/books/ten-top-tips-placing-disabled-children>.

Then there are the general resources that would be relevant to any child moving to adoption:

- CoramBAAF's Good Practice Guide 'Moving to Adoption' (2021) by Beek, Neil and Schofield, is available in our bookshop here: <https://corambaaf.org.uk/books/moving-adoption>.
- The above Good Practice Guide is written to guide and assist local authorities/RAAs to embed the University of East Anglia's 'Moving to adoption' model and you can find out more about the model and associated resources via this website: <https://www.movingtoadoption.co.uk/>.
- 'The children were fine': acknowledging complex feelings in the move from foster care to adoption, Boswell, S and Cudmore, L (2014) Adoption & Fostering, 38(1): 5 - 21. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0308575914522558> (journal article available via our website).
- Family Futures paper on transitions, which may be of interest: <https://www.familyfutures.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Transitions-Practice-Paper.pdf>.
- Devon County Council's fostering and adoption services worked together to develop a transition to adoption policy, and you can read about this in their guide 'Good practice in supporting a fostered child's transition to their new adoptive family'.

There may be other resources and information from autism support organisations or disabled children's organisations that may be helpful, but that rather depends on the individual child's needs and whether the more 'general' information to support families with disabled children would be relevant.

For example:

The National Autistic Society, including their information about dealing with change:

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/behaviour/dealing-with-change/all-audiences>

Contact – for families of disabled children: <https://contact.org.uk/help-for-families/information-advice-services/>