



**adopting | mabwysiadu
together | gyda'n gilydd**

Step by Step

Cam wrth Gam



**Could you be the forever family for a child waiting
for adoption?**

Children wait longest for a family if they:

- are brothers and sisters who need to stay together
 - are over 4 years old
- have additional needs or uncertainty regarding their development
- are children from a black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background

What is Adopting Together?

Adopting Together is an exciting child-focused adoption service, that brings together the Voluntary Adoption Agencies (VAAs) in Wales. It is led by St. David's Children Society with both St. David's and Barnardo's Cymru recruiting and supporting families for children who may be waiting a long time for their forever family. Adopting Together is supported by National Adoption Service in Wales and we have collaborated with colleagues in the statutory sector. We also work in partnership with Cardiff University and therapeutic partners.

Our innovative service provides four key components:

- Child specific recruitment and adopter-led 'Child Profiling Events' where adopters meet foster carers and social workers to really find out about the children profiled
- Clinical Psychologist-led 'Team for the Child' meeting to help adopters better understand the needs of their children
- Clinically supervised 'Therapeutic Transitions' with a dedicated specialist Social Worker using play-based techniques
- Post-Placement meetings with a Clinical Psychologist to support adopters and children in their first year together.

Adopting Together Support

From the day you make contact, to the day you become a family and for as long as you need it, we provide you with support. Adoptive parenting is a rewarding choice but can sometimes be as hard as it is wonderful.

Needing help is absolutely normal as you navigate your way through the stages of your child's life and we walk alongside you in your adoption journey.



All adoptive families are offered on-going support; however through the Adopting Together service you are offered a specific package of therapeutic support that acknowledges the impact of the child's journey and is tailored to yours and the child's needs. Our model focuses on strengthening your relationship with your child as they move in to your family and is offered as early as possible as your relationship grows and develops. We know that this early work will really help to set the foundation for positive life-long relations.

Support is centred around a therapeutic framework which seeks to understand the needs of your child, the strengths you bring to parenting, strategies to enable you to best parent your child and the ways in which this can be fully supported.

Package of Support

- A 'Team for the Child' meeting led by a Clinical Psychologist to identify and understand the needs of your child and consider how best to support you.
- Tailored therapeutic transition work - before, during and after introductions to help your child move from their foster family into your family and to set the foundation for your life-long relationships.
- An experienced adopter buddy from Adoption UK Cymru
- Professional support from a named social worker for as long as you need it.
- Access to a variety of enhanced, specialist training programmes.
- Peer support from experienced adopters who will walk alongside you offering support and guidance.
- Support groups with crèche facilities where you will meet other adopters and your children have fun! Plus Christmas and Summer Family Days.

Children like these are waiting for a family



Charlotte is 4 years old. Her favourite past-time is singing along to 'Frozen'. She is a smiley, curious and playful little girl. Charlotte is currently behind in many areas of her development by around 18 months. Charlotte witnessed lots of domestic violence and substance abuse and there is some uncertainty concerning her development. Charlotte would like to be a teacher when she grows up!

Jacob and Thomas are 6 and 4 year old brothers who need to be placed together. Their ideal day is spent out on the beach and they love the outdoors! They experienced significant neglect and Jacob had to do much of the caring for his younger brother. The brothers' birth parents suffered from poor mental health. The boys are both currently meeting their milestones. Jacob and Thomas would love to live with a forever family where they can have a room each.



Mia is 6 years old and of BAME heritage. She just loves gymnastics! Mia has had 2 foster homes since being removed from her birth family when she was 4 years old. Mia's birth Mother lived a chaotic lifestyle and often associated with people known to the authorities. Mia currently attends play therapy and would respond well to the Adopting Together therapeutic model. Mia has three half-siblings who are also being placed for adoption. Mia would like to be with a forever family who can nurture her love of gymnastics and who can positively promote her heritage.

Creating families

We are looking for people who want to create their families with these children in mind. You will need to be understanding, loving, playful and kind. You will need to have space in your lives, as well as people around you to share the joys and challenges. We will walk alongside you and help you understand what these children need and we will make sure you have the right support at the right time.



National Recognition for Adopting Together

Adopting Together is unique across the U.K, it brings together best practice in one seamless service. It is a therapeutic service incorporating four specialist components in once place, and able to offer the same clinical psychologist to support your family throughout your journey.

The service has achieved national recognition for it's innovative needs-led model and for innovation in collaboration. Adopting Together won the prestigious ICW 'Innovation Award', and also secured Highly Commended 1 in the category of Social and Community benefit at the 2018 Go Wales awards.



If you would like to find out more

Visit the St. David's website: www.adoptionwales.org

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