

Information for Adopters

Adoption Activity Days

What are Adoption Activity Days?

They are unique events that allow prospective adopters to meet a range of children waiting to be adopted in a prepared, supported, safe and fun environment. The most important factor on the day is that the children have fun.

What are the benefits?

Prospective adopters tell us that having the opportunity to engage with 'real' children helps them to establish if they feel a connection and encourages them to widen their thinking about the sort of child they envisage parenting.

What children will I meet?

A variety of single children and children in sibling groups from around 1 to 10 years of age, some of whom will have additional needs. You will have time to play with lots of different children and will receive a booklet of the children's profiles at the start of the event. Information about the children is not shared in advance so that you have the opportunity to see the children as children first and to attend with an open mind.

What will happen on the day?

The day will start with a short talk that will give you more information about the event and the children. You will then join the children and there will be around two hours of play, activities and entertainment. At the end of the day, you will be asked to let us know which children you are interested in finding out more about. You will also have the opportunity to leave positive written messages for the children you have met.

The outcomes



1 IN 4

**CHILDREN REFERRED TO
CORAM'S ACTIVITY DAYS
SECURE PERMANENT,
LOVING HOMES**



**AN OPPORTUNITY TO
ENGAGE WITH 'REAL'
CHILDREN HELPS TO
ESTABLISH A CONNECTION**

Meeting children face to face is very different to reading profiles. At the Activity Day you will be given the opportunity to see the children as they really are by playing with them. Activity Days usually have a theme and we invite everybody to dress up!



Is there anything I should or should not do at the Adoption Activity Day?

Please do:

- talk to the children and get down to their 'level'
- get involved in the activities and help the children to join in
- give the children your full attention
- ask the children about their likes and dislikes
- introduce yourself to foster carers and social workers
- leave positive, written messages for the children you have met and have fun!

Please do not:

- ask the children if they want to be adopted
- ask the children about their birth families and backgrounds
- ask the children where they live or what their surname is
- let the children see you reading their profiles or discussing expressions of interest
- make promises to the children
- take any photographs or videos
- give or promise gifts to the children

Your child or children are welcome to come along to the Activity Day. Talk with your social worker first as it may not be right for every child.

Can I attend an Adoption Activity Day to meet a child I have seen profiled elsewhere?

Sometimes prospective adopters are invited to an Activity Day to meet a child or children they have seen profiled elsewhere. Coram recognises the value of these encounters alongside the wider concept of the day. If you are coming to meet a specific child, we ask you to bear in mind that other prospective adopters will also be given the opportunity to meet the child.

What support will I get?

Meeting so many children who are waiting for a loving family can be an overwhelming experience. We are there to support you. Single adopters are welcome to bring somebody from their support network and this information should be included on the referral form completed by your social worker.

Am I guaranteed a place?

We have to carefully balance the number of prospective adopters with the number of children at each event. We cannot guarantee that every family who would like to come will be invited. Prospective adopters whose matching preferences are broadly suitable for the children attending will be prioritised.

How do children experience the event?

The children will have fun, meet families, like you, who want to adopt, and meet other children who are waiting to be adopted. They are carefully prepared and understand that whatever happens, they are going home with the person they came with. There is no sense that they will be 'chosen' or go home with somebody else. The message is that a family has to be right for them, and if the right people aren't there, their social worker will keep looking. Children can feel empowered by being involved in finding their own family.

What happens after the Adoption Activity Day?

The Activity Day is an opportunity for you to meet children who need families and to establish whether you feel a connection with any of them. You can express an interest in a child or children you have met by filling out the form provided on the day. All expressions of interest will be followed up. We would also encourage you to talk to your social worker about the children you are interested in knowing more about. We will also ask you for feedback so we can continue to improve what we do.

More questions?



CALL
0207 239 4999



EMAIL
ADOPTION.ACTIV
TYDAYS@CORAM.
ORG.UK.



Coram Campus
41 Brunswick Square
London
WC1N 1AZ
Tel: 020 7520 0300
Registered Charity no: 312278