

Adoption



Adopt With Us

Giving a child or young person a loving home where they can feel part of a family is the most significant way you can help. It's hugely rewarding.



We are looking for adopters who can offer consistency, stability and reassurance for children and young people. Our experienced team provides ongoing support to our families and adopted children.

We need families for: sibling groups, older children, children with disabilities, and babies.



@candpadoptionsservice

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adoptionenquiries@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

0300 123 1093



Why we need adoptive parents

Children and young people need adoptive parents for lots of reasons. In many cases it is because they have experienced a very difficult start in life and are unable to continue living safely with their birth families. What's important is that we offer them a home and a family where they can thrive and develop.

What we offer

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Can I adopt if I am over 40? **YES** - There are no hard and fast rules about the upper age limits. People of all ages can – and do – successfully adopt, depending on their health and the needs of the child. Adopters do however need to be over 21.

Can I adopt if I have children of my own?

YES - Many people successfully parent both birth and adopted children together. Usually, we would only place an adopted child who is younger than your birth child by at least two years.

Can I adopt if I do not live in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough? **YES** - We are looking for people wanting to adopt who live in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, and the surrounding regions including Norfolk, Suffolk, West Essex, Bedfordshire and East Hertfordshire.

Can I adopt if I am single or living with someone but not married? **YES** - We welcome applications from all people, regardless of their relationship status but if you are a couple, your relationship needs to be stable.

Can I adopt if I have had fertility treatment?

YES - Ideally, you should have finished your last cycle of treatment, and we ask that you leave a gap of at least six months before considering the adoption process. We are happy to offer you an informal chat if you have recently finished treatment.

Can I adopt if I smoke? There are serious health risks for young children in a household where anyone smokes. We ask people wishing to adopt children under the age of five to give up smoking (including e-cigarettes) for at least six months before we accept them for assessment. Non-smokers will always be prioritised because of the health benefits to you and to the child.

Can I adopt if I am gay or lesbian? **YES** - We are interested in what you have to offer a child who needs to be adopted and we are happy to accept applications from gay and lesbian adopters.