



Children's guide to adoption



This book belongs to:

.....

Date I started this book

.....

This booklet is for you to keep and the pictures are for you to colour in. There are pages where you can make your own drawings and write too! If you need help, ask your social worker or carer to help you.

This is Hackney Hamster. He's very friendly and you'll be able to find him on every page through this guide.



What is adoption?

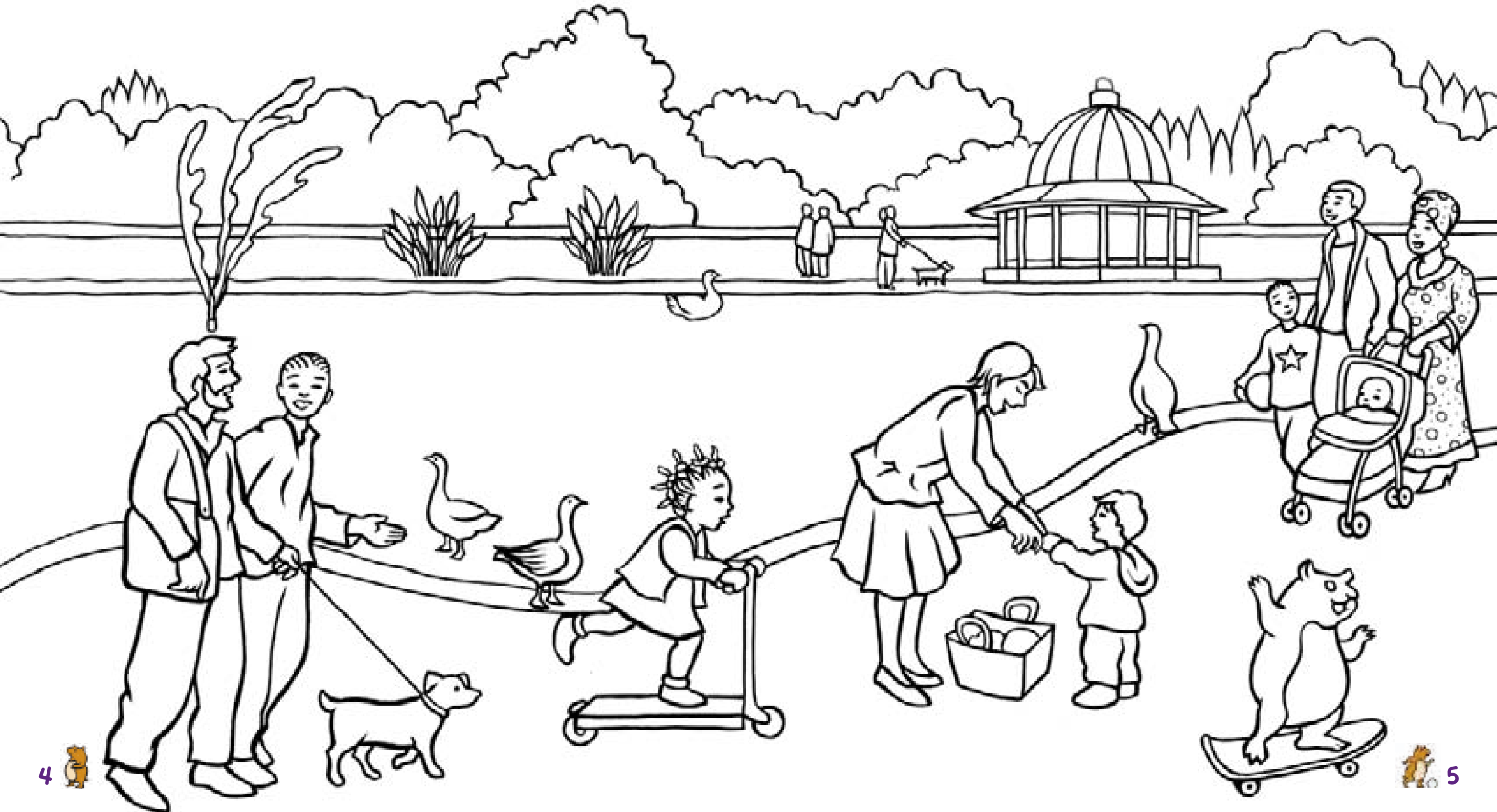
Adoption means moving to a new family and becoming part of that family forever. Adoption is different to foster care because your foster carers look after you together with your social worker.

Your new family will look after you as their own family. You will not need to have a social worker. You and your new family will make decisions together as a family, just like any other family.

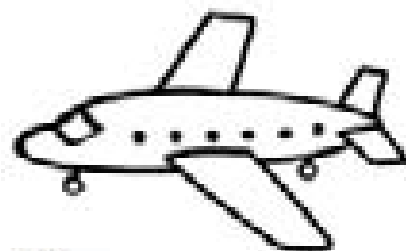
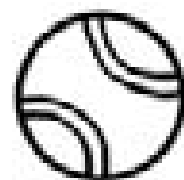
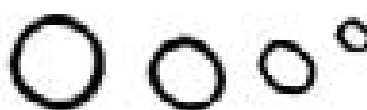
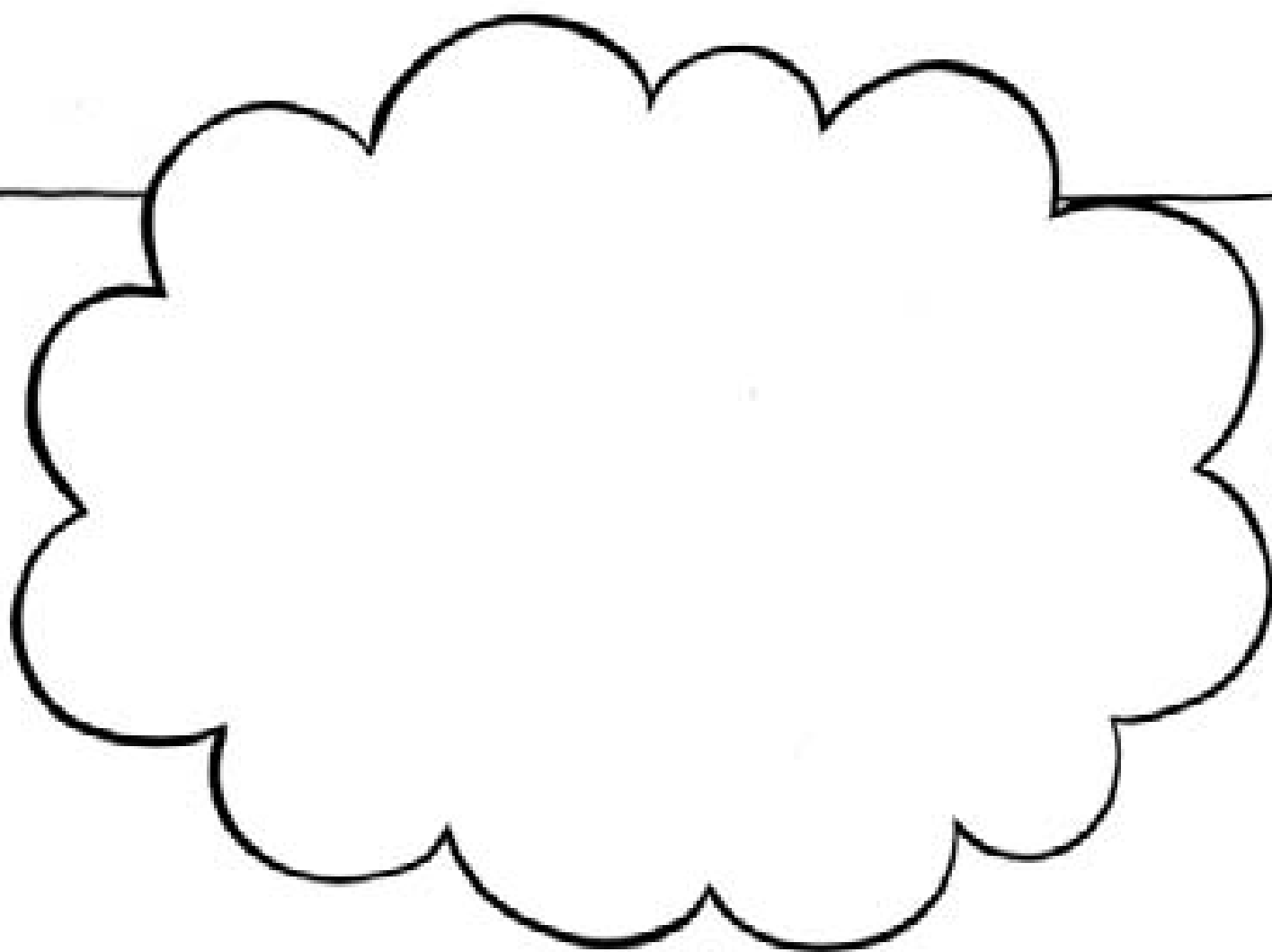
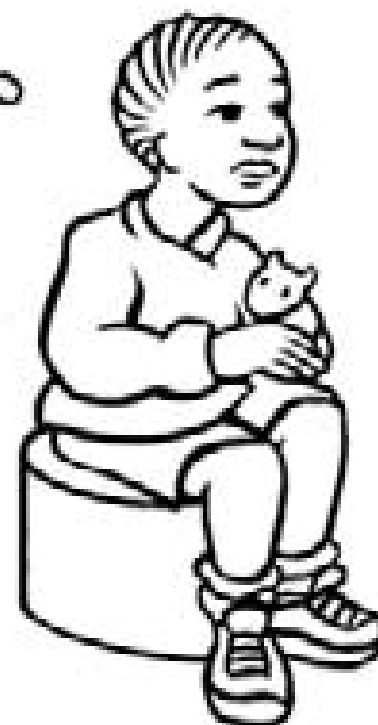
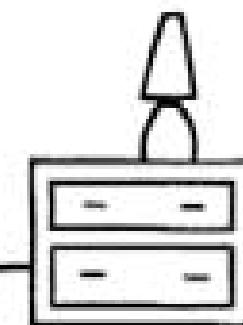
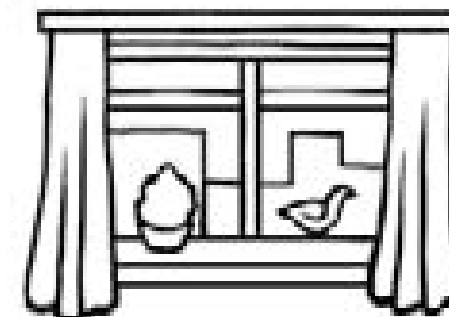
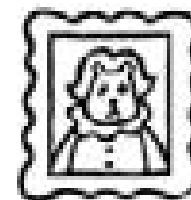
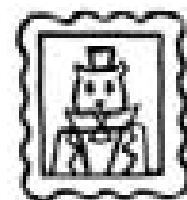
What will the new family be like?

All adopted children are precious and need a special family who can love and keep them safe whether they feel happy or sad.

It is your social workers job to try to find the right new family for you. They will do this by talking to you and to all the people who know and care about you. Everyone thinks about what sort of new family will be right for you.



Draw and write down what you want your new family to look like.



It is really important to find the right new family just for you and sometimes this can take a long time - it might take a whole year (that's two birthdays!). It is important we find the best possible new family who can look after you safely and love you forever.

All families are different. In some families there is just one mummy, two mummies or a mummy and a daddy or there are two daddies. What might yours be like?

With your social worker and foster carer you will make a life story book. This book is all about you! It will be full of things that are important to you, friends and family who are important to you, about growing up and places you have lived. You can look at this book with your new family and add to it as you grow up.



Meeting your new family

When your social worker has found a new family that she thinks is right for you, she/he will have some photographs and will be able to tell you all about them. She/he may also have photographs of their house and your new room.

Your social worker will arrange for you and your foster carers to meet your new family in your foster home. The first time you meet them will not be for long. There will be several more visits so you can start to get to know each other. You will visit your new house and might even stay overnight.



What will your new room be like? What things do you want in your room? What are your favourite things?



When you meet the new family you might have a lot of mixed feelings.

Some children say they feel:

All these feelings are normal! It is very important you tell your carers or your social worker how you feel when you meet the new family. They will be able to help with your all your different feelings.

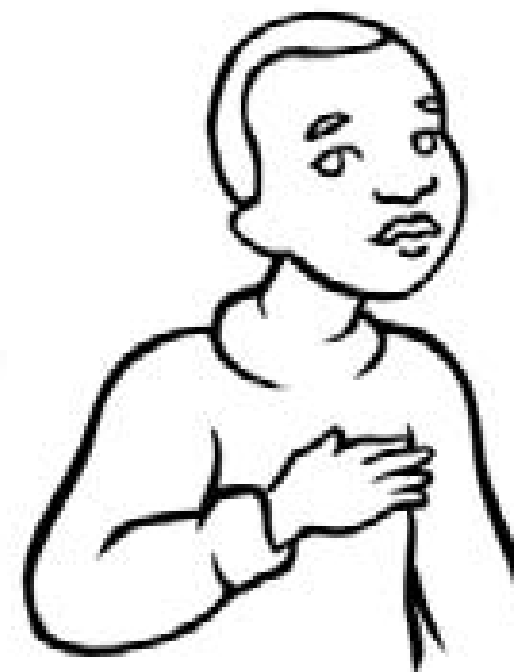
When you have had a few meetings and everyone thinks it is going well, there will be a meeting to decide a final date for you to move to the new family.



guilty and worried

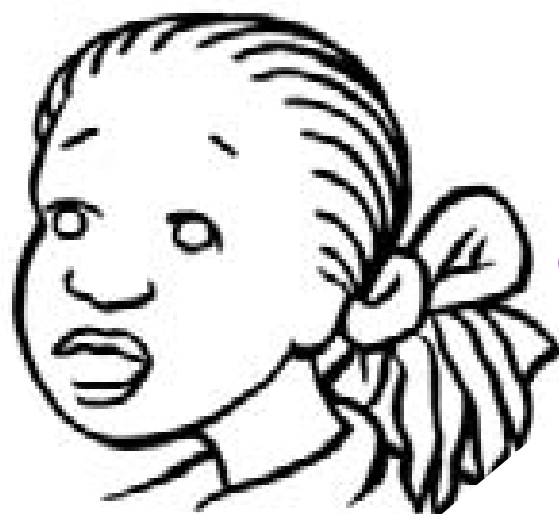


happy and sad



scared

happy and sad at the same time



dizzy



brilliant



excited



angry



sad to leave



Keeping in touch with important people

Before you move your social worker will tell you all about keeping in touch with important people. Social workers often call this contact.

If you live in a foster placement you might miss your foster carers when you move and any other children that live there. It will help to talk to them on the phone and to visit, everyone will make sure this happens. You may also want to keep in touch with friends and pets.

There may be some birth family you want to keep in touch with - let your social worker know who is important to you.

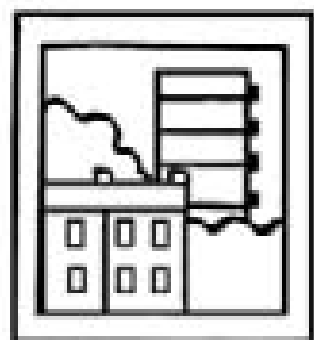
Some children, but not all, write letters or post cards to their birth family to let them know how they are getting along. Your social worker and new family can help you do this.



What happens after I move in?

It may take a while to settle in and really feel at home. When everyone feels the time is right a very important day arrives - this is your Adoption Day!

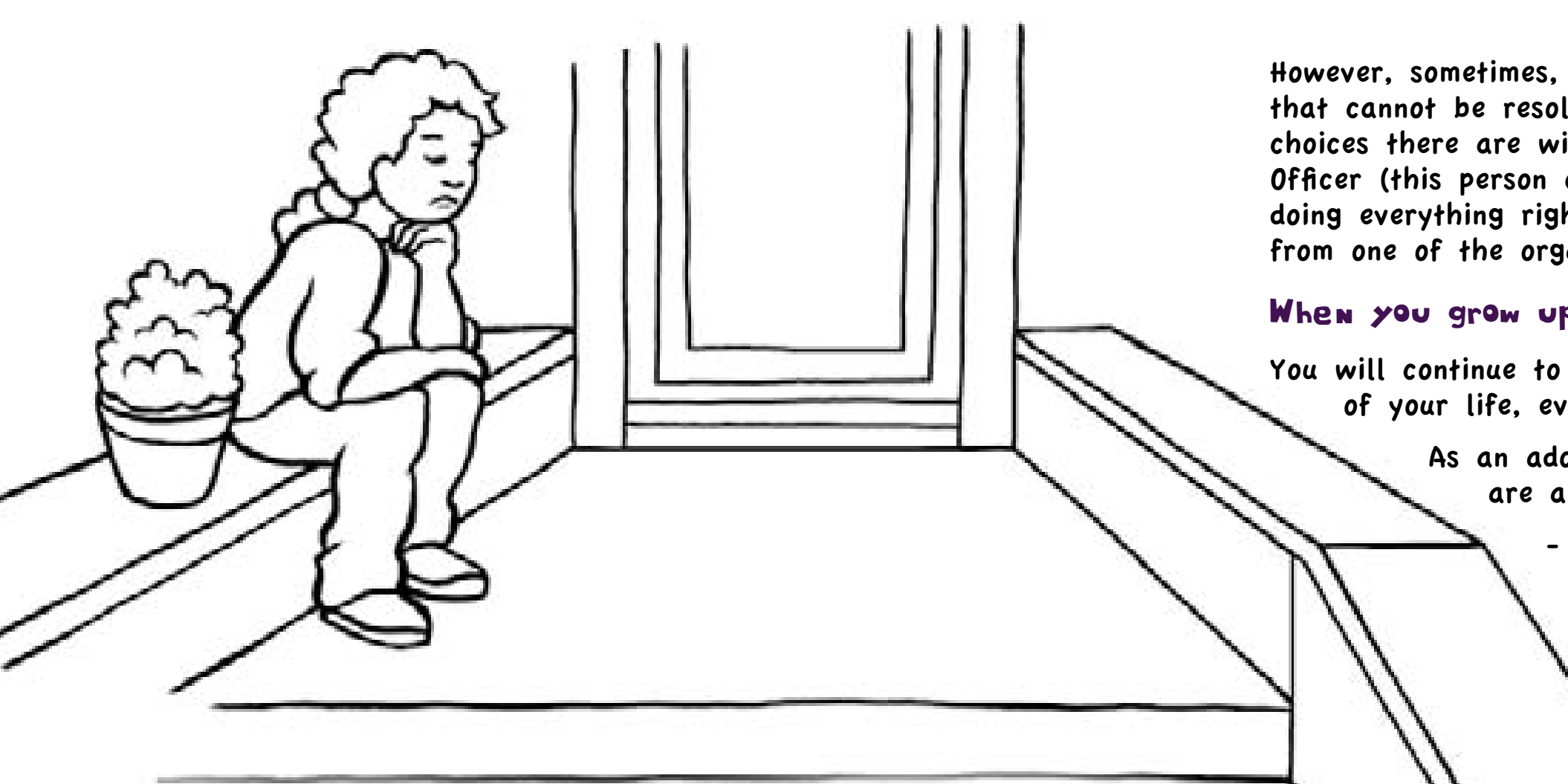
A family judge makes important decisions and you will visit them in a court where they will decide that you can become a new family together - this is your special day, your Adoption Day.



Everyone that has been involved in your adoption will come to court including your new family, your social worker and your Children's Guardian or Reporting Officer (this is a special person who works with children). Everyone will take pictures of you with the judge and there might even be a party afterwards!

Most judges say that meeting children who are being adopted is the very best bit about their job! The judge will be looking forward to seeing you and will be proud to have the job of making you part of your new family.





What if there are problems?

Being adopted is probably one of the biggest changes that will ever happen in your life, so it is normal that you will also have some big feelings about it!

It can take a while to adjust and there might be some difficulties. Try to tell someone how you are feeling as there is usually something someone can do to help.

If you feel there is no-one you can talk to, you can call one of the numbers at the end of this book.

If you want to talk about your social worker with someone else, or about the way decisions are being made about you, then you can call the Hackney Young People's Complaints Unit on **020 8356 5800**

If you need help to do this any of the organisations on the back page can help you.

A lot of children worry that the new family will not like them. The new family will already know a lot about you and they will have thought very hard about looking after you. You are moving in with them because they really want you to be there.

However, sometimes, if everyone is very unhappy or if there are problems that cannot be resolved, it might be necessary to talk about what other choices there are with your social worker or Independent Reviewing Officer (this person checks that your social worker and their team are doing everything right for you). You can also talk to someone independent from one of the organisations listed at the back of the book

When you grow up

You will continue to be a member of your new family for the rest of your life, even when you are grown up.

As an adopted person you have certain rights when you are an adult.

- The right to Post Adoption Counselling
- The right to look at your files
- The right for help to search for members of your birth family that you have lost contact with.

If you decide you would like to find out more about this, start by calling a Hackney Adoption Social Worker on **0800 0730 418**



Your adoption journey



Visiting your new family

Moving in

Your Adoption Day!

Talking about how things are going

Meeting your new family

Keeping in touch with others





If you are not happy about any plans that are being made for you or anything else, talk to a grown up you feel safe with.

This could be your social worker, teacher, your foster carer or any other person you trust.

People you can talk to for advice and support



Children's Rights Director/Ofsted
Ofsted, Aviation House
125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6SE
0800 528 0731
www.rights4me.org



Voice of the Child in Care
0808 800 5792
www.voiceyp.org



National Youth Advocacy Service
0800 61 61 01
www.nyas.net



Who Cares Trust
www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk/who-cares-town



Talk Adoption
0808 808 1234
www.afteradoption.org.uk



The Post Adoption Centre
020 7284 0555
www.postadoptioncentre.org.uk



Hackney Adoption Social Workers
0800 0730 418
www.hackney.gov.uk/adoption-support



ChildLine
0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk



If you would like to find out what this document says please tick the appropriate box, put your name, address and phone number at the bottom of this page and return it to the address below.

Bengali

এই নথিতে কি লেখা আছে সে সম্পর্কে যদি আপনি জানতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে উপযুক্ত বাক্সে টিক দিন, এই পাতার নিচে আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর লিখুন এবং এটি নিচের ঠিকানায় ফেরত পাঠান।

French

Si vous désirez connaître le contenu de ce document, veuillez cocher la case appropriée et indiquer votre nom, adresse et numéro de téléphone au bas de cette page et la renvoyer à l'adresse indiquée ci-dessous.

Kurdish

Ger hun dîwazîn bizanibin ku ev dokument çi dibêje, ji kerema xwe qutika minasib îşaret bikin, nav, navnîşan û hejmara telefona xwe li jêrê rûpel binivîsin û wê ji navnîşana jêrîn re bişînin.

Polish

Jeśli chcesz dowiedzieć się, jaka jest treść tego dokumentu, zaznacz odpowiednie pole, wpisz swoje nazwisko, adres i nr telefonu w dolnej części niniejszej strony i przeslij na poniższy adres.

Urdu

اگر آپ یہ جاننا چاہتے ہیں کہ دستاویز میں کیا لکھا ہے تو اوزلہ کرم مناسب باکس میں صحیح کا نشان لگائیے اور اپنا نام، پتہ اور فون نمبر اس صفحہ کے نیچے لکھتے اور اسے نیچے دئے گئے پتہ پر واپس بھیج دیجئے۔

Somali

Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd in aad ogaato waxa dokumeentigani sheegayo fadlan calaamadi godka ku haboon, ku qor magacaaga, cinwaanka iyo telefoon lambarkaaga boggan dhankiisa hoose ka dibna ku celi cinwaanka hoose.

Spanish

Si desea saber de lo que trata este documento, marque la casilla correspondiente, escriba su nombre, dirección y número de teléfono al final de esta página y envíela a la siguiente dirección.

Turkish

Bu dokümanda ne anlatıldığını öğrenmek istiyorsanız, lütfen uygun kutuyu işaretleyerek, adınızı, adresinizi ve telefon numaranızı bu sayfanın alt kısmına yazıp, aşağıdaki adrese gönderin.

Vietnamese

Nếu bạn muốn biết tài liệu này nói gì hãy đánh dấu vào hộp thích hợp, điền tên, địa chỉ và số điện thoại của bạn vào cuối trang này và gửi lại theo địa chỉ dưới đây.

Chinese

如果你想知道這分文件的詳細內容，請在方框內打鉤，在本頁下面寫下你的名字、地址和電話號碼並寄到下面的地址。

If you would like this document in any of the following formats or in another language not listed above, please complete and send the form to the address below.

In large print

In Braille

On Disk

On audio tape

In another language, please state:

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Return to: Hackney Adoption Service, 1 Hillman Street, London E8 1DY

