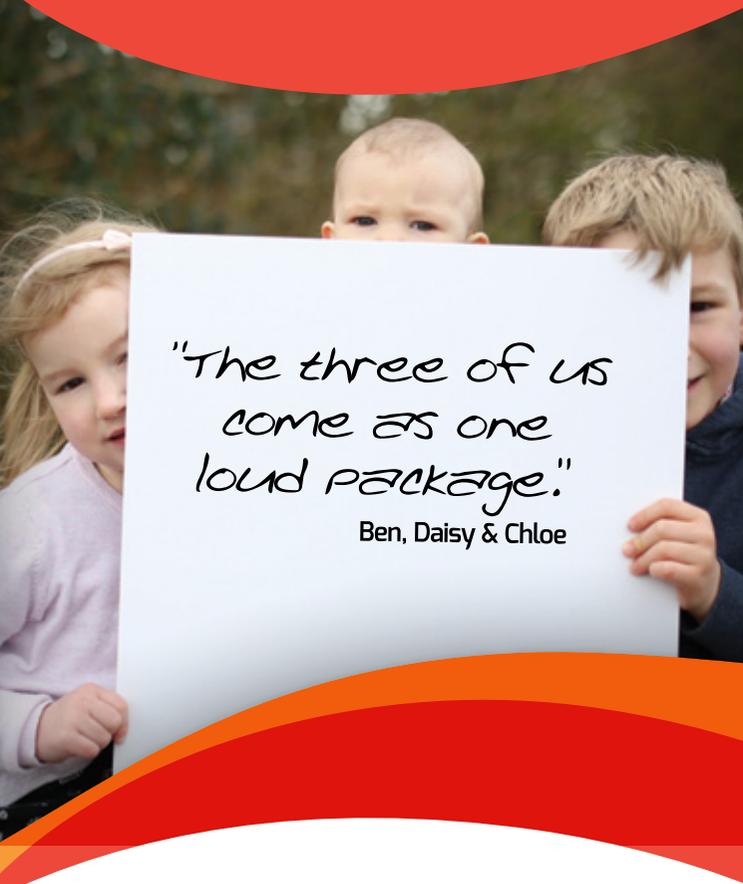


Adoption: See the whole child



Adoption is a way of giving a safe and loving family to a child who can no longer be brought up by their birth family.

People choose to adopt for many different reasons. Some arrive at adoption following experiences of infertility and, for some, adoption is their first choice for starting or extending their family.

Children who wait to be adopted have had challenging starts to life and will have experienced some form of loss by being taken into care. While undoubtedly challenging, becoming an adoptive parent is life changing, hugely rewarding and provides vulnerable children with stability, security and love.

#SeeTheWholeChild

The children who wait the longest for an adoptive family are our priority. They are children who have medical and developmental issues or learning difficulties; children who are brothers and sisters of two or three often where there is an older and younger child. We will prioritise your application if you can meet the needs of these children.

See the whole child and you will make a difference to your life and theirs.

Helen & Gareth,
adopters of
two children
with additional
needs



"Of course it's been a challenge, but we wouldn't change them for the world. It's part of what makes them who they are."

People who adopt a child are:

- **Single, married, or in a relationship:** Your sexuality is irrelevant. The main thing is that your home life is stable.
- **21 and older:** Each application is considered on its merits and applications are welcome from people of all ages, as long as you are over 21 years old.
- **Home owners or renting:** You simply need to demonstrate you have the space and security to care for children as they grow up.
- **Doing all kinds of jobs:** You don't need to earn a specific amount of money, but you need to show that becoming an adopter would not place you in financial difficulties.

Adopters do need to be:

Committed: The assessment process to become an adopter is rigorous, so you will need to be sure that adoption is the right thing for you. Your social worker will help you consider the issues and support you throughout.

Energetic: You must show you can invest time and energy in developing your relationship with your adopted child.

Aware: You must be aware that, while adopting a child is very rewarding, it can also be challenging. You will need to accept that an adoptive child has a past and that it is very important for you to support them to understand their history and birth family.

Empathetic: Most children who are adopted today will retain some links with their birth family, either through an annual letter or, occasionally, face to face contact (eg when brothers and sisters are separated). Some contact may also continue with their foster family if this is important for the child.

With our support you can adopt - contact us today: