

Children waiting for their new family

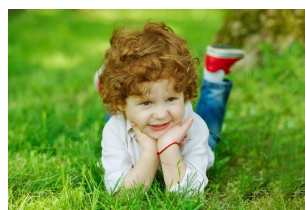
The following case studies show children to whom you could become a parent. They will hopefully give you an idea of the different ages, backgrounds and needs of children; and not least of all, a sense of their little personalities.

When you are first looking at becoming a parent through adoption, you may not know which children you can envisage parenting. The majority of children waiting to be adopted are aged between 18 months and 8 years. There are single children, as well as brothers and sisters. All children have individual and varying needs.

The main aim of the adoption application process is to get to know you and your household really well, so we can make the best family matches. These case study profiles are to kick start your thought processes about children you can picture being part of your family.

We work with you, using discussion tools, to look at the best matches between you and children coming forward for adoption. We will ask questions like, could you consider a sibling group? Could you envisage parenting a child with partial deafness, or a child who experienced a negative start in life? There are many boxes and their are many discussions you will have. No one likes to put children 'in a box', but these are tools to get us all thinking towards the best family matches. You will learn and develop your knowledge of adoption and more about yourself as a parent; so once you tick a box, it does not mean you can't untick it in the future. These conversations are never comfortable, but we ask you to be true to yourself, so we can work together to find the right child or children for you.

Please ask us any questions and let us know if you have any thoughts along the way. The team are here to support children, parents and families whenever they are needed.



Contact our recruitment officer for more information:

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NORTHUMBERLAND
Northumberland County Council



Be my family...

our names are: David and Jamie

we are: 4 and 3 years old

Hello....

We are David and and Jamie and we are brothers. We love the Stick Man and have seen him in Hamsterley Forest.

I am David. I live with my younger brother Jamie. We usually get on really well together, but sometimes we squabble over toys. Although I am older than Jamie, I like to follow him. I playing outside on my bike and football. I like Thomas the tank, but my favourite is the Incredible Hulk - I can show you my Hulk pose - rrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!!

My foster carers say that I can be shy at first, but once I get to know you, I am very confident. I like to explore and do new things. My foster carers say that I can take a joke and have an infectious laugh and cheeky grin.



I absolutely love going to school. There are lots of other children and loads of great toys.

Hi, I am Jamie.



I like to watch TV CBeebies and play games on my tablet. I like to play outside in the garden with David. I love climbing wherever I am. I love to eat and i cannot think of a food that I do not like. I have just started nursery and, like David, I love going to see all the children.

My foster carers say i am very cheerful. They have nicknamed me Spike because I love to wear my hair spiked up. They think that I am quite independent for my age and they know I like to be in charge. My foster carers are really proud of me as i can already dress myself.

Professional summary...

There are no concerns about David or Jamie in education or health terms. David was behind in his speech, but since coming into foster care and starting school he has come on leaps and bounds. David is a gentle child. He



Be my family...

our names are: David and Jamie

we are: 4 and 3 years old

is caring towards others especially his little brother. The boys came into care due to concerns with their mum's mental health and her ability to care for the boys properly.

If I could have my own special wish... "We can't wait to have new parents we can share."

Contact: Annual Indirect (postbox) contact with their birth mother. Direct contact with elder brother who is also being adopted. The regularity of this is under review with the social care team.

Family Required: David and Jamie need a fun loving energetic and robust adoptive family located away from the Prudhoe area

Preferred area for placement: Outside South West Northumberland

Legal:

Placement Order

Ethnic origin:

White British

Support:

Adoption Allowance may be payable





Be my family...

My name is: Ella Mae

I am: 10 months old

Hello.... I am Ella Mae and I am ten months old

I like bright colourful toys which makes sounds. I enjoy feeding myself with my fingers and making a right mess. I love my musical play gym and my rabbit bear.

I can now sit up on my own. My foster carer is impressed at my strong grip and how i can pass toys from one hand to the other.

My foster carer says I enjoy and respond warmly to attention from both adults and children. I love having my baby massage sessions with my foster carer. They say it helps me to relax if I become agitated. My foster carer knows that I am prone to coughs and colds because my immune system is still developing, so they are extra careful when I do sneeze.

Professional summary...

Ella Mae's birth mother drank alcohol and took drugs throughout her pregnancy, and so Ella Mae had withdrawal symptoms and required medication to ease her symptoms when she was born.

Ella Mae is now free of all her medication and is responding well to her surroundings. She has benefited from having a stable foster placement from birth and has responded well to her foster carers nurturing parenting style.

It is however very early days to predict any long term damage sustained that will affect her future development. In light of this Ella Mae will require close monitoring throughout her childhood to assess if she has foetal alcohol syndrome [[link to info](#)] and to identify any potential support needs. To date, Ella Mae is meeting her expected milestones.





Be my family...

My name is: Ella Mae

I am: 10 months old

If I could have my own special wish... I wish for a family who loves and cares for me."

Contact: Annual indirect contact with Ella Mae's birth mother

Family Required: Ella Mae should be the youngest child in a family by at least three years

Preferred area for placement: Outside of the Blyth area

Legal:

Placement Order

Ethnic origin:

White British

Support:

Post adoption support





Be my family...

My name is: Jason

I am: 3 years old

Hello....I'm Jason and I am three and half years old.

I am quite little for my age in comparison to my friends, but I can run just as fast as them. I love playing outside and I have lots of energy from morning to night. My favourite things to play with are building blocks and cars. I love having stories read to me.

My foster carer said I am a joy to look after and am such a little dude in my sunglasses. My social worker said she thinks I might be a gardener when I grow up as I love to look after my flowers and plants in the garden. I like to give the plants a drink of water in the morning and feed the birds, sometimes with my own sandwiches. I like to show off my skills in counting, saying the alphabet and identifying colours.

Sometimes I get a bit shy and don't like to look at people who I don't know very well, although I am happy to play with them when I feel comfortable. My foster carer says that when I first came to stay with them, I would become distressed easily and was not easily comforted. They say once I settled in, I started to make significant progress in all areas of my development and now have a happy disposition.

My foster carer says I am a healthy little boy. I will try most foods. I like to be tidy and do not like to be messy when I am eating so I take great care with my fork and spoon. I have also made progress with my toilet training; I now use pull ups night and day.



Professional summary...

Jason attends nursery 15 hours per week and thoroughly enjoys this. His behaviour in nursery can be quite challenging at times in respect of him wanting to do his own thing and limited attention span during carpet time however he continues to make positive steps forward with this.

There is some further analysis being carried out to establish if Jason has a wider developmental difficulty, rather than developmental delay due to his early life experiences. His good speech rules out severe autism. His excellent memory, knowledge of numbers and number recognition, together with his limited eye contact and dislike of change, can be seen in children on the broader autistic spectrum. However, these can be common in children of his age. Jason is moving forward positively with his development.



Be my family...

My name is: Jason

I am: 3 years old

His speech and coordination has greatly improved, and he no longer has additional services to support him with this.

If I could have my own special wish... I wish for a family who loves me and a home with a colourful garden."

Contact: Indirect contact with his birth mother, birth father and sister.

Family Required: Jason would benefit from being the youngest child in the family by about four years. He requires a family who would accept him for who he is, and not hold unrealistic expectations of academic and social ability.

Preferred area for placement: Outside of the Ashington, Blyth and Cramlington school areas

Legal:

Placement Order

Ethnic origin:

White British

Support:

Post adoption support



Be my family...

My name is: Jason

I am: 3 years old





Be my family...

My name is: Jessica

I am: 5 years old

Hello....my name is Jessica

My favourite time is spent bouncing on my trampoline. I like going to the park where I can run around, climb and play. I love painting and have lots of fun at my school. I am very proud of my certificates for trying to be good. I love animals, including horses. I am always gentle and kind towards animals. I especially love playing with my dolls, prams and hairdressing model. My favourite colours are yellow and purple, but really I like lots of colours. My foster carer has two cats. I didn't like them at first, but I love brushing them and having cuddles now.

My foster carers say I have a very expressive face when I am talking. They say that I am very good at having my 'Pat Pat' sessions. These help prevent chest infections which are a symptom of my medical condition. I have cystic fibrosis, but this does not stop me having lots of energy and fun. You can [click here](#) to read more about cystic fibrosis. My foster carers say I am a delightful, loving, independent, funny and mischievous little girl.

Professional summary...

Jessica's health has generally been stable throughout her little life. She is well supported by the cystic fibrosis team. Jessica is in good routines. She sleeps well and has a well-balanced diet. Jessica responds well to her twice daily physiotherapy sessions, which is undertaken by her foster carer, who said, "It sounds daunting, but it quickly becomes second nature and does not impact too much on the day."

Jessica loves school, where she is a popular little girl. Her behaviour and development are well within normal limits.

Jessica has experienced disruption and neglect in her early life. However, she has been flourishing with the benefit of a stable foster family. She has developed good relationships with her foster carers and enjoys being part of a loving family.





Be my family...

My name is: Jessica

I am: 5 years old

If I could have my own special wish... "I would like a family that loves and cares for me and lets me take my pink baby blanket to bed and have a night light on. I need lots of special care but I love having lots of fun with lots of cuddles and kisses".

Contact: Annual indirect post-box contact with birth mother.

Family Required: Jessica needs an adoptive family and to be the only young child. She would benefit from a well supported two parent family or a single parent family who has a good support network.

Preferred area for placement: The birth family lives in the Ashington area of Northumberland. Consideration will be given to anywhere in the UK but with preference to Northern Region.

Legal:

Placement Order

Ethnic origin:

White British

Support:

Support from post adoption team and possible adoption allowance





Be my family...

My name is: Matthew

I am: 6 years old

Hello....

...my name is Matthew. I am 6 years old.

I am a real chatterbox with bundles of energy. I have a new piggy bank and am saving my pocket money for a new toy. I have a very creative imagination and love making up stories. I like adults to join in and be a character in my story, I like stories about dinosaurs and pirates. Would you like to be in one of my stories?

Professional summary...

Matthew is a little boy who thrives on attention and praise. Matthew is confident, fun, outgoing, friendly, happy and loving. He can be impulsive on occasion. Matthew is an affectionate child who loves to engage with adults but sometimes needs to be reminded of "stranger danger". Matthews endearing mannerisms tend to attract positive attention from adults; for example if spoken to he will eagerly invite the adult into his world to tell them what he is doing. He is happiest when he is out burning off energy.

Matthew loves one to one attention and happily plays from morning to night, never getting bored. Matthew loves both indoor and outdoor play. He is happy going to the beach making sand castles and forts, playing at the park, going for a walk or out riding his bike. Matthew likes to end his day having a story from his foster carers and watching a DVD in his room.

Matthew experienced significant neglect which impacted on his ability to meet with his expected milestones. This is termed global development delay. Matthew had severe tantrums when first placed and was extremely oppositional. He seemed to be a very scared little boy who had received very little emotional warmth or care. Within six months Matthew made good progress and demonstrated signs of starting to trust adults who cared for him. Matthew's early life experiences have impacted on his presentation and capacity to concentrate. He has been diagnosed with ADHD, for which he has recently been prescribed medication. The medication appears to be making a great difference in Matthew's ability to concentrate on tasks both at home and in school.





Be my family...

My name is: Matthew

I am: 6 years old

Matthew has a health and education care plan. He attends a special educational resource for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

If I could have my own special wish... I would have a growing up family all of my own."

Contact: Indirect with birth parents and maternal grandmother. Indirect with a potential to direct contact with younger sibling who is adopted.

Family Required: Matthew would benefit from a strong two parent family where at least there is one male parent. A family who can accept the uncertainty of Matthew's academic learning and emotional vulnerability which can on occasion manifest itself in physical levels of acting out.

Preferred area for placement: Outside South East Northumberland and Newcastle

Legal:

Placement Order

Ethnic origin:

White British

Support:

Possible adoption financial support and support from post adoption team



Be my family...

My name is: Matthew

I am: 6 years old



Be our family...



our names are:

Rosie, Marcus and Jack

we are: 7, 5 and 2 years old

Hello.... we are sister and brothers Rosie, Marcus and Jack

we are very close to each other. we love going to the park together.

I am Rosie. I have just turned 7 years old.... I love to play outside. I have a trampoline, bike and a scooter. I like to read and I love making stuff with lego and play doh - sometimes at the same time! I love going to school to see my friends. My foster carers say I am a very funny and friendly, chatty lass, who loves to learn more about the world around me.

My foster carers say I am caring and affectionate, and seem very intelligent. They say I enjoy adult attention and I have natural leadership qualities, without being bossy. I have a strong sense of justice and fair play, and can assert my views. They think I am very easy going, although like many children, I will let you know if I don't get my own way sometimes.



I am Marcus and have just turned 5... I prefer to play outside, but like lots of indoor stuff too. we got face paints from the metro centre and I love painting my sister and brothers' faces. I really like games like football, hide and seek and races with my sister, brother and friends. when Rosie gets up to antics I roll my eyes and say: "what's she like?" I dance around and act and sing - my foster carers say I do really good voices and can pull the most amazing faces.



My foster carers say I am usually confident, outgoing and talkative. They say I am fun-loving, and mix easily. My foster carers think that I am caring and considerate of the feelings of others. They say I am very protective of Jack and highly loyal to Rosie. Like lots of boys my age, I can sulk if I do not get my own way, but my foster carers can easily distract me from being in a huff too long. My foster carers have told my social worker I sleep well and enjoy a wide variety of food. I love green vegetables and they call me the little broccoli monster.

I am Jack and I am two... I love playing with my foster carers keys. My favourite toys are teddies and cars - I have a remote control Noddy car. I like watching Thomas the Tank Engine and Mr Tumble on TV. I really do not like fireworks or rice pudding. My foster carer says I am a happy, mischievous little boy, with a cheeky laugh and face to match. Apparently, I have a great giggle.





Be our family...

our names are:

Rosie, Marcus and Jack

we are: 7, 5 and 2 years old

Professional summary...

Rosie, Marcus and Jack are full siblings who share a close bond and a strong sense of family identity. Because of their parents' ill health, they have come in and out of foster care over the last three years. The children are very supportive and protective of each other. They are intelligent, caring and resilient children who have made significant progress in foster care. They have all been able to forge positive relationships with their foster carers and respond well to nurture, routines and consistent boundaries. Because of their early life experiences and family history, it is likely that Rosie and Marcus will need additional support in developing a positive attachment as they mature but this is under ongoing review. Their new family will receive full support and guidance as things progress.

If we could have our own special wish... ... a family who can care for and play with us all"

Contact: Indirect contact is envisaged with their birth parents

Family Required: An active two parent family

Preferred area for placement: Outside the Berwick area

Legal:

Placement Order

Ethnic origin:

White British

Support:

Possible adoption financial support and post adoption support





Be my family...

My name is: Sam

I am: 4 years old

Hello.... I am Sam and I have just turned 4 years old

I like playing football and being outdoors and on my bike. I like watching Fireman Sam, Peppa Pig and Postman Pat, but I do get bored with the TV fairly quickly. At the moment, in the house I only like toys that make a noise but at school I like cutting magazines and making pictures.

I love walking my foster carers dog - we can walk for miles and miles! We go to the caravan and meet up with more children, they are my foster carers grandchildren.

I like to wake up early and am happy to sing and play in my room until everyone else is out of bed.

My foster carer says that while I have a short attention span, I am very sociable with a cheerful disposition. They say I beam with bright eyes when I have done something to be proud of.

Professional summary...

Sam has remained with the same foster carers since he came into care a year ago. He has settled into good routines and has made good progress during this time. Sam can struggle to express his wishes and feelings; however he is improving in this area and is becoming less frustrated as he develops these skills.

At this stage, the team envisage that Sam and his new family will initially benefit from support to help him continue the development of his attachment and to help him settle in with his family.

Sam has a health and education care plan to support his time in school. At present, he receives one to one individual support in nursery school which he attends on five afternoons each week. Sam's basic academic achievement is age appropriate. The current progress success suggests that Sam will go forward into mainstream education, with support in the first year.





Be my family...

My name is: Sam

I am: 4 years old

If I could have my own special wish... I wish for a family who loves me and will help me stay in touch with my big sisters and aunty."

Contact: Sam has 4 older half sisters. The plan in discussion is based on what Sam has asked for - he would like to stay in touch with two of his sisters and his aunt. The girls are in the same long term foster care placement with their paternal aunt. Annual indirect contact is proposed with Sam's birth parents and two oldest half sisters.

Family Required: Sam would benefit from a family who has a calm and consistent lifestyle.

Preferred area for placement: Outside of south east Northumberland

Legal:

Placement Order

Ethnic origin:

White British

Support:

Post adoption support





Be my family...

My name is: Sean

I am: 3 years old

Hello.... My name is Sean

I love being outdoors, going for walks or playing in the park. I really like playing on swings. I have limited vision, so particularly love the sensation of movement and the wind on my face. I like to explore different surfaces such as grass and sand. I also like to feel and touch plants, trees and leaves. My favourite toy is my shopping trolley, which I use as a stabiliser to get about the house!

Best of all I love hugs and cuddles and exploring.

I like watching Peppa pig and Ben and Holly on TV. I like going to my musical play time group, where I can experiment with lots of musical instruments and play with other children my age. I enjoy toys and activities which stimulate my hearing. I love listening to nursery rhymes and singing. Sometimes I can become frightened by any loud unexpected noises.

I really like to be the centre of attention, showing off any new skills that I have learned. My foster carers say I respond well to praise and encouragement and that I ooze with pride at every new thing I accomplish.

My foster carer says that I have a lovely temperament and am responsive to everyone around me. She says I am a cheeky and funny little boy, who makes her laugh. My foster carer thinks that I am a very rewarding child to look after, as I am very spontaneous with my affections with cuddles and kisses.



Professional summary...

Sean is a happy, contented little boy who rarely cries. At aged four months, Sean suffered significant trauma to his brain resulting in delay in his development. Sean is likely to have visual, physical and motor difficulties for which he will require long term support. The level of this is unknown because of the great progress he has made in his time in foster care. Sean's new family will receive support and guidance as things progress. Sean is a very



Be my family...

My name is: Sean

I am: 3 years old

healthy little boy. He has a good appetite; eating a range of foods. His foster carer says that he prefers homemade, rather than processed meals.

If I could have my own special wish... To live with a family who loves and cares for me."

Contact: Annual indirect contact with his birth mother and grandmother

Family Required: Sean needs a family who can respond to his needs, enjoy his personality, appreciate his strengths and accept his care routine. The family must be prepared to provide a loving and stable home whatever Sean's future potential.

Preferred area for placement: No preferred area

Legal:

Placement Order

Ethnic origin:

White British

Support:

Adoption financial support and support from the post adoption team

