

# What to do next...

Kingston Adoption Service is only able to assess and approve a very small number of adopters each year. Those selected will usually either live outside the borough or be able to meet the needs of 'difficult to place' children. We are bound by regulations to prioritise our service to the local children who need adopting, rather than adults who would like to adopt.



**This does not mean you would not make a good adoptive parent or that you should not pursue adoption. There are other options:**

\* You could approach another local authority nearby.

\* There are many independent adoption agencies, some representing particular religious, ethnic or cultural groups.

\* The British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) offers advice and information and produces a monthly magazine *Be My Parent* advertising children who need adoptive families.

Telephone: 020 7421 2600 [www.baaf.org.uk](http://www.baaf.org.uk)

\* Adoption UK runs a telephone helpline: 0844 843 7900 (10am to 4pm) (Calls cost 5p per minute at all times.) [www.adoptionuk.org.uk](http://www.adoptionuk.org.uk)

\* If you want to research adopting a child from another country, contact the Inter-country Adoption Centre on telephone: 0870 5163742 [www.icacentre.org.uk](http://www.icacentre.org.uk)

Many people would like to adopt. To give yourself the best chance, find out as much information as you can from books, the internet and talking to friends who have adopted. It will all help to give you realistic expectations of the adoption process, the children and problems you may encounter as an adopter. Agencies will be reassured by your knowledge and commitment.

The adoption process takes a long time. Adoption social workers will always request that you take time to adjust after infertility treatment, miscarriage, bereavement and other very stressful life events. It can prove difficult to form a bond with an adoptive child before these things have been dealt with, so always be honest with social workers.



**As a starting point, if you would like to be invited to our next Adoption Information Session, please fill in our web enquiry form or telephone 020 8547 6042.**