

ACTIVITY SHEET QUIZ

WHO ARE THE CHILDREN?

Purpose:- To introduce participants to the children placed for adoption Activity

participants are given the quiz sheet and asked to work in pairs to answer true or false

- 1 The number of children adopted from care in the UK has increased over the last five years
- 2 Most children adopted are aged under five
- 3 Adoption is hardly ever used for young people over 10.
- 4 Most children spend years in the care systems before they are adopted.
- 5 Children placed for adoption are often placed with their brothers and sisters.
- 6 Half the children placed for adoption have additional identified needs
- 7 Most children placed for adoption no longer have any contact with their birth family
- 8 There are very few babies under 6 months needing adoption
- 9 Most children adopted from care are white, of English, Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish decent
- 10 Children are usually placed for adoption a considerable distance from their birth place

1 The number of children adopted from care in the UK has increased over the last five years

False

During the year ending 31 March 2011, 3,050 looked after children were adopted a decrease of 5% from 2010

2 Most children adopted are aged under five

True

2% (60) were under one year old and 71% (2,170) were aged between one and four years old

3 Adoption is hardly ever used for young people over 10.

True

3% (90) were aged between 10 and 15 years old. 24% (730) were aged between five and nine years old

4 Most children spend years in the care systems before they are adopted.

False

The average length of time between a child's entry into care and adoption was 2 years and 7 months. In younger children the process was shorter. For children aged less than 1 year (on first entering care) the average length of the adoption process was 2 years and 3 months while for children aged 6 (when first entering care) the average length of the process was 3 years and 9 months.

5 Children placed for adoption are often placed with their brothers and sisters.

True

There are no up to date figures. However, according to statistics recorded by the National Adoption Register in the period between December 2004 and December 2005 reveal that 62% of the children placed through the register were part of a sibling group

6 Half the children placed for adoption have additional identified needs

We don't know

There are no clear statistics on disability. Often the impairment is developmental uncertainty but a small number have speech delay, hearing impairments, visual impairments and an even smaller number may be classed as being on the autistic spectrum. There are a very small number of children with serious disabilities placed for adoption

7 Most children placed for adoption no longer have any contact with their birth family

False

Most children placed over the past 10 years have indirect contact with some members of their birth family

8 There are very few babies under 6 months needing adoption

True

In the year ending March 31st 2011 2% (60) were under one year old

9 Most children adopted from care are white, of English, Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish decent

True

84% were of White British origin, 10% of mixed ethnic origin, 2% Asian or Asian British and 2% black or black British. however, black children and black children of mixed heritage are overrepresented among children in the care system compared with the percentage of black and minority ethnic children in the general population

10 Children are usually placed for adoption a considerable distance from their birth place

False

Most children are placed within their own local authority or via consortium of adoption agencies

Other Statistics

- There were 3,050 looked after children adopted during the year ending 31 March 2011.
- 51% were boys; 49% were girls
- 72% were placed for adoption due to abuse or neglect, 12% due to family dysfunction, 8% because the birth family was in 'acute stress'
- 91 per cent (2,900) of looked after children who were adopted in the year ending March 2010 were adopted by two people, nine per cent by one person
- Most adopters were married (82%)
- In 2010, 6% of adopters were an unmarried couple (different gender), 2% was an unmarried couple (same gender) and 2% were civil partners
- *In 2010, 72.4% of children who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2011 were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption
- There were 90,920 children looked after at some point during the year ending 31 March 2011
- Only 4% (2,300) of the looked after children were placed for adoption