

YOUR ROADMAP TO ADOPT BC KIDS



How long will it take

Many people find it takes at least two years to go from submitting an adoption application to welcoming a child home. Your journey could be longer or shorter depending on things like where you live, the support needs you're open to in a child, and your social worker's caseload. **We encourage everyone to complete the free, self-guided online training Introduction to Adoption and Permanency before applying to adopt.** This training provides valuable information about the process and the children eligible for adoption.

1

Contact us - Belonging Network

The Belonging Network supports prospective parents at every stage of adoption, exploration to finalization and beyond. Authorized by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) in British Columbia, we provide guidance and assistance throughout the adoption process. Reach us at info@belongingnetwork.com or 1-877-ADOPT-07.

2

Complete an adoption application

1. Visit www.gov.bc.ca/adoptBCKids to learn more about adopting from foster care.
2. Set up a BC Services Card account at id.gov.bc.ca if you don't have one already.
3. Apply online through MCFD's Adopt BC Kids portal using your BCeID login.

3

Complete the training

Once approved, a social worker from MCFD will contact you for training. You must complete two courses:

- **Introduction to Adoption and Permanency:** A self-guided online course you can complete before starting your adoption application.
- **Learning for Everyone in Adoption and Permanency (LEAP):** A 10-week online course featuring live discussions and learning materials to help you understand the needs of children from foster care.

4

Complete a homestudy

After completing LEAP, the next step is the homestudy. Expect six to eight visits from a social worker over several months. They will assess your home and conduct interviews about your background, relationships, health, experience with children, and parenting approach.

5

Matching

After homestudy approval, the process of searching (and waiting) for a match begins. This stage is child-focused; social workers are looking for the right matches for waiting children rather than the right children for waiting parents. Use this time to build support networks and gather resources for your future child's transition.

6

Placement and transitioning the child into your home

Once a match has been identified and you've accepted, you'll receive a detailed proposal package about the child (or children). Assess the proposal carefully. Declining returns will take you to the Matching step; accepting means you'll start planning the child's transition to your home. The child might visit your home during this time, or you might visit them, or both.

7

Finalizing the adoption

A six-month residency period begins upon the child's move-in, with ongoing social worker support. If all goes well, after six months, your social worker can file a post-placement report with the courts for adoption finalization. Upon approval, your social worker notifies you and sends the final adoption papers. Congratulations! You are now legally recognized as your child's legal parent.

8

A lifelong journey

Adoption is a journey that lasts a lifetime. The Belonging Network offers resources, connections, and free, confidential support to help your family thrive at every stage of your adoption journey.

This is a summary of the major steps of the adoption process. For more details, visit the "Adoption from foster care" section of belongingnetwork.com or call 1-877-ADOPT-07.

belonging
network