

YOUR ROADMAP TO ADOPT BC KIDS



How long will it take

Many people find it takes more than two years to go from submitting an adoption application to welcoming a child or youth home. Your journey could be longer or shorter depending on things like where you live, the support needs you're open to, and your social worker's caseload.

We encourage prospective parents to attend our free [Adopt BC Kids info session](#) to learn more about the adoption process, the waiting children and youth, and to get answers to your questions. This training provides valuable information about the process and the children and youth 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. We also have a Family Support Specialist available to answer questions or concerns along the way. 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 government 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 BC service card.

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 and youth from government care.

4

Complete a homestudy

After completing LEAP, the next step is the homestudy. However, there is often a wait before this begins, which can vary by region and the timelines at your local MCFD office. In some cases, the wait can be over a year. Once started, 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 or youth, and parenting approach.

5

Matching

Once your homestudy is approved, the journey enters a new phase. This stage is centred around the needs of children and youth. Social workers focus on finding the most suitable families for waiting children and youth, rather than selecting children to fit waiting parents. During this time, it's important to shift your mindset from waiting to preparing. Use this time to build support networks and gather resources for your future family's transition. You can find support by joining our [Waiting Parents discussion group](#) or [Waiting Parents Facebook group](#).

6

Placement and transitioning the child or youth into your home

Once a match has been identified and you've accepted, you'll receive a detailed proposal package about the child or youth. Assess the proposal carefully. If you decline a proposal, your social worker will continue looking for a match for you. If you move forward, a gradual child-centred transition plan with visits will be created to support the child or youth's move into your home.

7

Finalizing the adoption

A minimum six-month residency period begins upon the child or youth'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 recognized as your child or youth'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.