

research in practice

The Contact after Adoption study

In this film, Professor Elsbeth Neil, from the University of East Anglia, discusses some of the key findings from the Contact after Adoption study.

Professor Neil led this study of adopted children between 1996 and 2014. The children were followed from placement (under 4 years) through to late adolescence. At placement, all had a plan for direct or indirect contact. The study aimed to find out how contact was experienced by everyone involved and how the children/young people were affected by contact, both immediately and in the longer term.

The film lasts for approximately 30 minutes and is divided into six sections. The film may be viewed as a whole or sections may be chosen to illuminate or prompt discussion on specific points.

The six sections are as follows:

- 1. Young people's views (0:40 to 6:15 mins)**
- 2. Adoptive parents' views (6:20 to 10:46 mins)**
- 3. Birth relatives' views (10:50 to 15:00 mins)**
- 4. The impact of contact on general development and identity development (15:00 to 19:00 mins)**
- 5. The differences between direct and indirect contact (19:05 to 23:44 mins)**
- 6. What helps to make contact successful (23:45 to 28:00 mins)**