



# Contact after adoption

## Open access resources

Learning resources for practitioners planning contact between adopted children and their birth families and making it work as needs and circumstances change.



*Social workers need to go back to their value base and move away from standardisation and formulas to individualise contact planning; children of different ages have different needs in relation to contact...*

**Featherstone et al, (2018)**

## Learning resources include:

<h3>Birth relatives and contact</h3>	<h3>Adopters and contact</h3>	<h3>Making contact plans</h3>
<p><a href="http://contact.rip.org.uk/supporting-birth-relatives">contact.rip.org.uk/supporting-birth-relatives</a></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Engaging birth relatives in contact planning.</li> <li>&gt; Supporting birth relatives to understand what the adoption order means in terms of contact and its role in their child's life.</li> <li>&gt; Signposting independent advice and support for birth families.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://contact.rip.org.uk/supporting-adopters-with-post-adoption-contact">contact.rip.org.uk/supporting-adopters-with-post-adoption-contact</a></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Setting up introductory meetings.</li> <li>&gt; Benefits and misconceptions of contact.</li> <li>&gt; Initiating and managing direct contact.</li> <li>&gt; The role of contact in developing a child's identity and life story.</li> <li>&gt; The role professionals play in maintaining meaningful contact.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://contact.rip.org.uk/making-and-reviewing-contact-plans">contact.rip.org.uk/making-and-reviewing-contact-plans</a></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Introducing the case discussion model and how to use it.</li> <li>&gt; Developmentally appropriate contact.</li> <li>&gt; Reviewing contact arrangements as young people approach adulthood.</li> <li>&gt; Assessing and managing risk.</li> <li>&gt; Managing contact through social media and information online.</li> </ul>
<h3>Including the views of the child in contact</h3>	<h3>Letterbox contact</h3>	<h3>Sibling contact</h3>
<p><a href="http://contact.rip.org.uk/voice-of-the-child">contact.rip.org.uk/voice-of-the-child</a></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Listening and communicating with children when planning and reviewing contact.</li> <li>&gt; Assessing young children's responses before, during and after contact.</li> <li>&gt; Managing expectations and unmet contact needs for older children.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://contact.rip.org.uk/letterbox-contact">contact.rip.org.uk/letterbox-contact</a></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Starting and sustaining letterbox contact.</li> <li>&gt; Benefits and challenges of indirect contact.</li> <li>&gt; Managing indirect contact as a child gets older.</li> <li>&gt; Sample letters from adopters to birth relatives.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://contact.rip.org.uk/contact-with-siblings">contact.rip.org.uk/contact-with-siblings</a></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Assessing sibling relationships when planning contact.</li> <li>&gt; Making flexible and meaningful sibling contact plans.</li> <li>&gt; Facilitating and supporting planned contact.</li> </ul>
<h3>Case studies and media resources</h3>		<h3>Research resources and further reading</h3>
<p><a href="http://contact.rip.org.uk/case-studies">contact.rip.org.uk/case-studies</a></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Video clips: first-hand accounts of what contact has meant for birth relatives, adoptive parents and young people.</li> <li>&gt; Audio clips: birth parents talking about their experiences.</li> <li>&gt; Case studies for use in learning and development.</li> </ul>		<p><a href="http://contact.rip.org.uk/research-resources">contact.rip.org.uk/research-resources</a></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Links to peer-reviewed publications, research reports and summaries on post-adoption contact.</li> </ul>