

Real Life Stories

This extract is taken from a short video from one of our past adopters. You can see this video in full, plus more videos, stories and testimonials on our website: www.leicester.gov.uk/adoption

Iain and Amanda are proud parents of their little boy H.

Q: What's your experience of adopting?

Iain: We started looking at the adoption process when we couldn't have kids ourselves. We didn't think in a million years we'd ever have any problems or anything like that.

Q: Was it a difficult decision?

Iain: At the time, yeah, it was. You don't think you're going to have problems naturally. We got married and went through the process of trying to start a family and once we'd exhausted all options we looked at the adoption side.

Q: How has adopting changed your life and those of your existing family?

Iain: Well we've hit the ground running. I think when you have your own child you grow naturally into the parenting role but suddenly you've got an 18-month old child that's needing 110% of your time.

For me, I'm a very physical person. I enjoy getting out and doing stuff. I'm a very active person. So to some extent has it changed me any? It hasn't because I can still do the things I enjoy doing. I just do them with a little man now. We go out and spend time together.

Q: How long did it take to adopt?

Iain: It's not a short process. I think from start to finish it took us about 18 months. It's a tiring process but at the end of it we wouldn't have changed the length of time for anything at all. We got exactly what we wanted. It was fantastic.

Q: Is there a lot of paperwork and legalities? What help did you get from the Adoption Team?

Iain: There is paperwork and you do have an application form that you have to fill out. And then obviously you have the CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks and stuff like that.

Our appointed social worker did a lot of work with us and we did get support from Social Services, from the adoption team, which was brilliant.

Q: Can you tell me about the information evening?

Iain: We got an opportunity to ask questions and find out more information. An adoptive parent came along. She was able to answer the questions that we weren't too sure of at the time which was good. It was a bit of an eye-opener really. Since then we've actually attended an information evening as adoptive parents. Now we're able to relay that information and those experiences that we'd learned, back to prospective adopters. It was very

Q: A lot of people seem to be put off adopting because they don't feel they're the right sort of person. What encouragement can you offer to others if they think 'we can't do this'?

Iain: I don't think there's the right or a wrong sort of person. I'm an active person, I never thought in a million years we wouldn't have our own kids naturally and I'm quite an alpha male and you like to have that idea of your blood pool going on and expanding and all that sort of stuff.

As a man you could be put off because it's somebody else's child, or it's not your own, but it doesn't feel like that at all. There's nothing we would change. The amount of love and affection that we're shown and that we feel for our child, it's just special. You never take that moment for granted. He's a gift. He's something we got as a gift, so it is very special.

So, yeah, if you've got an opportunity in life to give someone a better start or a better existence, I would take it wholeheartedly. I'd tell anyone they can do it or who's even thinking about it for a split second to consider it further.



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