

## What do other people say about Sharing Stories?

*"I didn't want to speak to the social worker after everything that had happened but I was happy to talk to Sharing Stories. It was my way of letting my child know about me"*

(A mother)

*"I saw it as putting the record straight"*

(A father)

*"It was good to be able to let our grandchild know that we loved them and always would, wherever they are"*

(A grandmother)

## How do I get in touch with you?

If you are interested in Sharing Stories you can call us on the numbers below, or ask your social worker or any other professional to refer you. There is no cost to parents and you can change your mind at any time.

### Sharing Stories contact details:



0117 935 8826

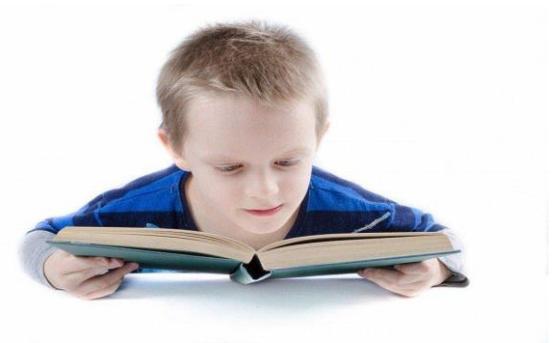


You can call or text -  
Eve Payne - 07519109273  
Hannah Walker – 07519109277



eve.payne@ccsadoption.org  
hannah.walker@ccsadoption.org

# Sharing Stories



## Information for Parents

## **Introducing Sharing Stories**

If your child has been placed with someone else and social services are talking about adoption as an option you will be managing complicated emotions and some difficult decisions.

*Sharing Stories* recognises that being separated from your child can be overwhelming and seeks to work with all families in a supportive, caring and confidential manner, giving families in your position the chance to share information with your child about yourself, your family and your history in your own words.

## **What information do Sharing Stories want?**

Every situation is different so the information that you share can take many forms. It might be a story about the characters in your family, a photo or details of family traits, strengths and interests. Sharing Stories will help you think about what you might be able to share for your child and to decide how much information about yourself feels right to share.

## **Why do you need it?**

Experience tells us that the information you share with *Sharing Stories* will be of great value to your child as they come to make sense of their life story and who they are, both now and in the future. It is important for children to hear their story from your point of view, as well as from the views of professionals.

## **Where does the information go?**

The Sharing Stories workers do not work for the Local Authority and are not part of the on-going court process. The information you share will go towards helping your child understand their birth family history and where they come from. It will be kept safe until the court has decided where your child is going to live, or you agree to certain information being shared before this. The project will also produce or contribute to creating a life story book for your child. This will also be shared with social services to be kept on your child's file.

If your child is returned to you, all Sharing Stories information will be returned to you. Sharing Stories will then work with the carers who looked after your child to encourage them to share information about the time that your child spent with them so that you can help your child to understand this time in their life as they get older.

If your child does not return to you, then the information you have shared with Sharing Stories will be shared with the adopters and they will also be given training in how to support your child to understand where they came from and what has happened in their lives.

If whilst sharing information we were concerned that someone was in danger of being hurt then we would need to pass this information on, but we would let you know where possible.

## **Why do we ask you to work with Sharing Stories now?**

We know we are asking a lot by asking you to start this work when you are still coming to terms with the Local Authority's recommendations and before the Court has made its decision. We do this because experience tells us that the earlier we start, the better the information for your children. But if it is too much now, you can get in touch with us later.