



PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

Adopter Case Study: Louise, Tom, Sophie, Ben and Amy

Louise said: "We always wanted a large family but weren't able to have our own biological children. As soon as we decided to adopt, we knew we wanted more than one child. What we weren't sure about was whether to go for two, three or even more!

"We were approved at adoption panel for a sibling group of three and so began the endless hours of looking at profiles, looking for that magic something (we didn't know what!) that would leap out to us and say, yes, these are our children.



"That initial excitement of being approved deflated after a couple of enquiries about specific sibling groups came to nothing. The realisation that finding the right children can take a long time dawned. Looking back, what would be our advice about that time? Well, to be patient and not to settle for anything that doesn't feel right.

"When we saw the photograph of the three children who would eventually become ours, before even reading their profile, I felt an instant connection. Their hair was very similar to how mine was at that age. I remember ringing my husband to tell him they were the ones! Thankfully the amazing lady handling the matching and placements, had seen their profile at an adoption event and spoken to the children's social worker about us. The social workers visited us and we heard back the same day that they felt it was a positive match and we had the green light to proceed. From that first visit to meeting the children took three months. Three months of mad preparation, as if we hadn't done enough already!

"The children were aged five, three and two when they came to live with us. The challenge of siblings was firstly one of the logistics of having more than one child, two of whom were in nappies, plus the requirement to try and meet each of their individual needs. The children had been separated in foster care so they had to get used to one another, as well as all of us getting to know one another. That all takes time.

"One added complication for us was support. Our families live a long way away and we had limited help locally – something that any adoptive parent needs is emotional and practical support and assistance.

"As time has gone on, the children's behavioural issues have calmed. They do have issues associated with development delay but we work closely with the school on dealing with that. Communication is the key with everything.

"Every day was, and still is, a challenge. But we are just a regular family, getting on with life and enjoying ourselves. We would not change it for the world."

If you're interested in adoption, contact PACT today:



0300 456 4800



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