

# The UEA Moving to Adoption model

The UEA model outlines three stages in moving a child to adoption

**Stage 1: Getting to know each other**

**Stage 2: Making the move**

**Stage 3: Supporting relationships after the move**

The UEA model is not prescriptive about timescales or the details of planning for these stages. Instead, it suggests that the six key principles (overleaf) should be held in mind and applied flexibly according to individual needs and the particular circumstances of each move.

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## The University of East Anglia Moving to Adoption model suggests six important principles to consider when moving a child to adoption:

- Opportunities for the foster carers and adopters to build a positive relationship should be promoted at an early stage in the moving process.
- It is helpful for the adopters and the child to become familiar with each other before the adopters undertake caregiving tasks.
- All arrangements and timescales should focus on the needs of the child.
- The child's feelings about the move should be held in mind, and responded to sensitively.
- Some continuity of foster family relationships and environment will support the child in managing the loss of the foster family and building trust in the adoptive family.
- There should be flexibility in the planning, in consultation with the child, the families and the social workers, to allow for emerging circumstances and needs.