

TRANSITIONS

MOVING AWAY FROM
EVERYTHING YOU KNOW

What is transitioning?



What research tells us – Julie Selwyn

- ❖ Children were statistically more likely not to be living at home if their adopters considered the introductions to have been handled badly.
- ❖ There were three main reasons why introductions were thought not to have gone well:



- ❖ **Poor timing** - moving around key events (birthday/Christmas)
Support from workers was absent/extremely limited (bank holidays).
Significant other events – example Birth mother having a baby.

What research tells us

❖ **Poor planning** given B&B accommodation near birth mother. organise own accommodation, no costs, “So I went down and stayed with my brother. I slept on his sofa for the introductions.”

❖ **Rushed introductions** - Hastiness was often linked to the children’s fostering situation. Foster carers have issued ultimatums, holiday.

Has affected the transition between the foster and adoptive families. For example, one mother explained how she had been persuaded to accept a plan of introductions, even though her husband was not available that week. In the event the prospective adoptive father chose not to legally adopt the child, leaving his wife to proceed as a single parent.

Challenges to positive introductions

- ❖ Inexperienced FC, not moved a child to adoption before
- ❖ FC wants to keep the child (overt or covertly)
- ❖ FC dislikes adopters or their demographic
- ❖ Child/ren are separating from sibs at this point
- ❖ Anyone changing introductions plans without clear communication to all
- ❖ FC being an IFA and/or have limited support
- ❖ Speed of introductions is affected by external non child centred issues (FC holidays, illness, new placement, work etc).
- ❖ No review or lack of flexibility by one party (maybe LA), in terms of changing plans during introductions when needed.
- ❖ Poor or new relationship between adopters and their support worker.