



Someone New

An Early Permanence story for siblings.





Information for the grown ups

Dear Parents and carers,

We have prepared some support and information which might be helpful when talking to your children about your plans to care for a child under a Welsh Early Permanence plan.

We suggest you look at this material and talk to your social worker before looking at the book with your child, they will be able to support you.

Scan this code for access to information and support for topics covered in this book or visit <https://adoptcymru.com>.

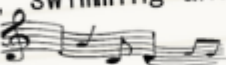




Hello my name is Seren and this is a story all about me and my family.



Important things about me!

1. I am 4 years old.
2. I go to big school and am in the reception class. 
3. My favourite colour is yellow. 
4. My favourite things to do are singing, swimming and going to the park. 
5. My favourite food is sausages and ice cream (not together though)! 
6. When I was two years old, I was adopted by my Mum. 



Being adopted means I have two mums, my adoptive mum and my birth mum. I grew in my birth mum's tummy; she loved me a lot but she couldn't keep me safe and couldn't care for me in the way I needed. When I was one year old, I lived with a foster family who took care of me until I was adopted by my Mum.

When someone is adopted it means it was not safe for them to live with their birth families and social workers help to find them a family who could look after them, keep them safe and help them grow and learn. When I have questions about being adopted I have a special life journey book that helps me understand. Mum looks at this with me and I ask lots of questions, like:



why is every family different?

Mum tells me, families are made in lots of different ways. Some children live with their birth parents, some live with just one parent or another family member such as grandparents, aunts or uncles. Some children also live with foster families who help care for them whilst decisions are being made about their future such as 'where is the safest place for them to live where they will be loved and cared for?' Some children live with an adoptive family just like me, where they will be loved and cared for throughout their life.



All families look different, but the love feels the same.

What do children need...



A Safe Home



Lots of Play and Family Time



A Safe Place to Sleep



Clean Nappies



Bath time



Cuddles and Comfort



Lots of Milk



Healthy Food

...to be happy, healthy and safe?

5 Important things about me and my Mum

1. My Mum is very good at looking after me she reads me a story every night and tucks me into bed.
2. Mum cuddles me up when I am sad and makes everything better.
3. My Mum loves to spend time with me, we have lots of fun together, we go on special adventures to the park and the beach. We love exploring!
4. My Mum gives me lots of healthy food but we also love ice cream, especially after a fun day exploring. I like yellow ice cream best and Mum likes strawberry.
5. My Mum loves me to the moon and back, she says we have lots of love to share in our family and a someone new is going to join our family.

I have lots of questions about someone new...



I can talk to my Mum about all these questions, and she helps me to understand.

Mum says that 'someone new' is a little baby. They are still growing in their birth Mum's tummy and we are going to help keep them safe when they are born, whilst big decisions are still being made about how best to keep them safe and where they should live as they get bigger. This means we will be a foster family. Just like my foster family who kept me safe before I was adopted by my Mum.

When my Mum told me this, at first I was worried about lots of things changing. Mum says some things may change but we have lots of love to share. She told me I have lots of special jobs to do to help make sure we are ready for the new baby.

At first, the new baby will sleep in Mums room. Mum says they may wake up hungry and cry during the night. I don't mind this too much because I have moved into a bigger bedroom and we have decorated it yellow, my favourite colour.

The new baby is going to need some toys. I have given them some of my favourite toys from when I was little. I am too big for them now, but I think the baby will like them. A bear called Mr Bear and a mobile to go on their cot with jungle animals dangling from it. I used to love these and hopefully the new baby will too.

On Monday, me and Mum went to meet the new baby for the first time, a little girl called Megan. I drew her a special picture of our family home where she is coming to stay.



On Tuesday, Mum went to see Megan and spend time with her at the hospital. Whilst Mum was gone, I went on a special adventure with Nanny and Grandad to the park. Afterwards, we went to a café and had sausage, chips and afterwards a yellow Ice cream.

On Wednesday, Megan came home from hospital. It was a busy day where lots of grown ups came to see us including Megan's social worker. Grandma has also been here to help. This has been lots of fun as we have been making cakes together.

Mum told me that Megan's Social worker is here to help Megan and make sure she is safe and well cared for. Megan's social worker is helping the Judge to make big decisions about where Megan should live and how to make sure she is happy, healthy and safe as she gets bigger.

On Thursday, Mum took Megan to spend time with her parents at a place called a family time centre. Mum was gone for a long time and she says this will happen every week as it is very important for Megan and her family to still see each other.

On Friday we went exploring all three of us together for the very first time. Mum and me took Megan for a walk around the lakes and I showed Megan how to feed the ducks, she was too little to feed them herself yet and she slept for most of the adventure. But I like having Megan as part of our family. Each day I love her a little more, she feels like my little sister but I don't know if she is or not.

Looking after Megan is a very important job, she needs a grown up to care for her and keep her safe, she is so little Mum does everything for her and I help too. She is so little babies really can't do much! She needs all the things we learned about earlier in this book can you remember what they are?



Mum and me are very good at this now as we have been looking after her for weeks and weeks, so we know what she likes and doesn't like and how to make her smile.

She cries when she is hungry (which is a lot). She is not big enough to have ice cream yet, she only likes milk.

She loves bath time and splashing in water, I always help Mum with bath time and Megan likes me to sing to her whilst she splashes in the water.



I don't know how long Megan will live with us as decisions are still being made about this by her social worker and the judge.

Sometimes this makes me sad, I love having Megan in our family. My mum says if she cannot go and live with her Mum and Dad then we will adopt her and she can stay with us. But I don't know how long we have to wait to find out.

While we are waiting we have been taking lots of pictures of our adventures together and writing about them in a special book to help Megan understand when she is bigger.



Let's take a pause here

Deciding what is best for Megan and where she should live is a very big decision. It will take a long time to make this decision as it is important to look at all the options for her future and whether her parents can care for her safely.

There are two possible endings to her story which are both in the next part of this book. Ending one explores what it may look and feel like if the plan for Megan is for her to be adopted. Ending two explores what it may look and feel like if the plan for Megan is to return to the care of her family.

Both these endings will bring up happy and sad feelings for everyone supporting Megan but the most important thing to understand is that whatever decision is made she will be safe and well cared for throughout her life.



Megan will be one in a few weeks, she has been living with me and Mum for almost a year. Today Mum told me that Megan's social worker and the judge have said that it is not safe for her to live with her Mum and Dad. Megan needs a family that can look after her and keep her safe as she grows up. Megan needs to be adopted just like me. I still have lots of questions though....



Everyone agrees that Megan should be adopted by Mum and live with us forever. I am a big sister now and we are a family. I am looking forward to making lots of memories with Mum and Megan, going on adventures together, teaching her how to swim and most importantly finding out what her favourite flavour ice cream will be.



Will I be Megan's big sister now?

Will Megan have the same last name as me and Mum?

Are we going to be a family?

Love Makes A Family



I will love you
until the day after forever

Megan will be one in a few weeks, she has been living with me and Mum for almost a year. Today Mum told me that Megan's social worker and the judge have said that it is not safe for her to live with her Mum and Dad. Megan needs a family that can look after her and keep her safe as she grows up. Megan needs to be adopted just like me. I still have lots of questions though....



Mum says that Megan's parents have a new home closer to their family who want to help and support them to care for Megan.

Over the next few weeks Megan will start spending more time with her parents and Mum will teach them all about Megan's routine and the things she likes and doesn't like.

Megan and her parents will have lots of support from social workers who will still visit them and check on Megan everyday.

Mum is not sure if we will still get to see Megan, she says she will miss her too, but the love and care we have given her has given her the best start in life and she will always have a special place in our hearts.

Will I be Megan's big sister now?

Will Megan have the same last name as me and Mum?

Are we going to be a family?



Special memories



Today Megan went to live with her Mum and Dad. It was a really happy and sad day.

I made her a memory box to take with her and we filled it with lots of special things including some pictures of the time she has spent with us, Mr Bear and her mobile from her cot that I gave her.

Although I am going to miss her a lot Mum says that will get easier with time. We will never forget Megan. She was a big part of our family for a short time but she will have a special place in our hearts forever.

