



Expectations for Pre meets Adopters and Foster Carers

1. A Pre-meet will be a planned event, agreed with the child care social worker and prospective adopter's social worker as part of the linking and matching process. It will take place after foster carers and prospective adopters have met and before match panel.
2. It will be agreed at the planning stage whether an adoption Social Worker is present during the meeting to support the foster carers, child and prospective adopters.
3. If a worker is not present to support during the Pre-meet a de-brief, via a phone call/face to face meet, will be scheduled after the Pre-meet with the foster carers and prospective adopters with their social workers. It is essential all parties are fully supported before, during and after the event.
4. The meeting needs to be undertaken in the context of ongoing good direct work, making connections and preparing the child for a '*new family*' where they can '*do their growing up*'.
5. Pre-meets will take place in a neutral environment. This may be a park or café nearby which is familiar to the child, consideration to a venue which supports the child. Parks are great venues as foster carers can bring along balls and other toys for the child to play with. Always have a back-up venue where the plan had been to meet outdoors, in case of poor weather.
6. As part of the agreed plan there will be a maximum of two pre meets. These are prior to the start of the introduction process.
7. A Pre-meet will last no longer than 60 minutes.
8. The prospective adopters will not be introduced to the child as their new parents. The prospective adopters are simply introduced by name. There should not be any complex explanations to the child about how the prospective adopters and foster carers know each other.
9. Prospective adopters are not to undertake any care responsibilities during the Pre-meet. The focus of the meeting should remain informal, giving the opportunity for the prospective adopters to observe the child whilst they play and observe the interaction between the child and their current carers. Any organic interaction between the prospective adopters and the child is encouraged.
10. Prospective adopters and foster carers need to ensure the child is not left alone with the prospective adopters and also mindful of the impact of any physical contact being initiated by the child (such as holding hands), the prospective adopters are in fact strangers to the child.



11. Ending a Pre-meet can be difficult, it is expected that prospective adopters take the lead in ending at the pre-planned time. The prospective adopters will be offered advice and support regarding managing this ending by their social worker as part of the planning process.