



St Francis' Children's Society is an independent adoption agency. We operate within a 50 mile radius of our offices in **Milton Keynes**, and deliver a comprehensive range of high quality professional adoption services.

Our adoption service is called **Adoption Connections**. We focus on providing secure and sustainable adoptive placements and adoption support for vulnerable children and their families. We provide exceptional preparation training to all of our adopters, and can offer this training to adopters from external VAAs and local authorities.

Our training

Our preparation training is divided into four day-long workshops, which begin at 10am and finish at 4pm.

Day 1: **The Adoption Triangle and the Loss Cycle**

Knowledge of the loss cycle and how we learn to live more comfortably with our losses. An understanding of healthy ways of coping with loss, for both you and your child.

Day 2: **Child Development: The Brain & Attachment**

Developing an understanding of the role of the brain and attachment in child development. Learning about the behaviours an adopted child may bring with them, and developing an understanding of those behaviours in terms of the brain and attachment.

Day 3: **Abuse and Trauma**

Understanding the different types of abuse and their impact. Learning about the impact of traumatic stress on children, and exploring ways of helping your child.

Day 4: **Parenting the Adopted Child**

Is behaviour trauma or personality driven? Knowing how to soothe your child's lower brain and shape their higher brains. Theraplay® techniques.

"The Adoption Preparation Groups at SFCS particularly stood out for us. The social workers leading the training were amazing, especially with the sensitive handling of issues such as abuse. They provided us with excellent insight which changed some of our perceptions."

The SFCS Family Centre

All of our training takes place in our purpose-built Family Centre. Opened in May 2014, the Centre is light and inviting, and provides a safe and comfortable space where direct work with children, adults and families can be undertaken.



Our Team

Our Preparation Training is provided by **two qualified social workers**, who are joined and supported by **one of our experienced adopters**.

Tory Kermeen is an Independent Social Worker, qualifying in 1999. In the last 7 years Tory has specialised in work with adopted children and their families. She is registered with the HCPC. She has worked with children with disabilities, looked after children and children on the 'at risk' register, in both a CAMHS setting and in the field of adoption. She holds a postgraduate Diploma in Family Therapy from the Tavistock Clinic. Tory is also a fully certified Theraplay® Practitioner and is now in the process of becoming a Theraplay Trainer for the Theraplay Institute. Tory has completed Level 1 in Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy. As well as being a trainer for the Preparation training for SFCS she provides Theraplay, as a therapeutic intervention, for adopted children and their families.

Aysha Badeanu is a Senior Social Worker at SFCS, qualifying in 1995. She has worked in child protection, fostering and adoption teams, and in special guardianship teams. She is trained in Adult Attachment style interviews, and has also trained in Assessing Reflective Functioning in Adults at the Anna Freud Centre. Aysha is an experienced trainer, having undertaken her training at Fostering Network in 1999.



"The preparation classes were very good - a good mix of group work and information. The social workers leading the groups were relaxed and open to suggestions and discussion. They used a range of tools to demonstrate their point and this came across in an interesting way."

Costs

The entire course of four days training is **free to anyone adopting through SFCS**. For others adopting through their local authority, we charge **£250 for each single adopter or £400 for each couple**. This includes refreshments and any handouts which may be required.

If you would like to find out more about Adopter Preparation Training at SFCS, please get in touch with us - we'd be delighted to discuss your requirements.

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