# FOSTER FAMILY, ADOPTION

**HAYAT SENDE & KOREV** 







#### **HAYAT SENDE ASSOCIATION**

We are a non-governmental organization established in 2007. We works to ensure children and young people who grow up under state protection live on equal terms with their peers. We support children and young people who grow up under protection with trainings, scholarships, and projects.

Previous works:
Let's Break Down the Social Walls
The Proper Dictionary
Age 18 Too Early
My Childhood Album
Strengthening Family-Based Care Models in the Context of Islam

Our ongoing work:
Child Protection System Consultation Line
Foreign Language and Career Mentoring Program
Alternative Care Database
Psychological Support Network
Strengthening Family-Based Care Models in Turkey

#### **KOREV**

We are a non-governmental organization founded by Clinical Psychologist Prof. Dr. Neşe EROL, in 2005, which aims to normalize the concept of foster care that the public has never heard of yet, and adoption as an alternative family model, to contribute to the upbringing of children growing up under protection in a healthy family environment where all their rights are protected, and to support children and families throughout the process.

**Previous works:** 

Let's Break Down the Social Walls

Workshop on the Evaluation of the Foster Family Model through the Eyes of Foster Families

**Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children Workshop** 

Workshop on Foster Families in the Context of Children's Rights

Our ongoing work:

**KOREV Storybook Project** 

**Psycho-social Support** 

**Trainings for Families** 



## Family-Based Services





Foster care is the care and upbringing of children who cannot stay with their biological family for any reason, on a long- or short-term basis, in paid or voluntary status, under state supervision, by families in their own family environment.





The purpose of the foster family service is to ensure a child spends the difficult and problematic period without anviling and continues his/her normal life.

The foster family, in cooperation with the state, helps a child by ensuring that they maintain their relationship with their biological family, school and the neighborhood.

### What are the criteria for becoming a foster family?



A Turkish citizen who is a permanent resident of Turkey, in the 25-65 age range,

(if the age difference between the spouses is ten years or less, the age of the younger spouse is considered, otherwise the average age of the spouses is taken as a basis.)

At least primary school graduate, have a regular income, Married/single or with/without children (other than the child's biological parents or guardians)

### What kind of support is received from the Ministry of Family and Social Services during the foster care process?

#### Basic parent trainings, child development, communication trainings

Basic Family Training: It is the education in which general parenting skills, including basic parent education, are acquired within the scope of child development, needs, and effective parenting to support the child.

Specialized foster families and temporary foster families; It is necessary to have a bachelor's degree or one of the spouses to have at least primary education level, to have received basic parent education, foster family first and second level education, to be able to help children in this context and determined by the Ministry.

Families who have received Basic Family Education and Foster Family First Level Education, as well as other certified training to help raise children, are preferred for foster family services to be given to children who need more special care.

### Where can I apply to become a foster parent?



Provincial
Directorates of the
Ministry of Family and
Social Services (with
petition)





e-devlet



#### When applying,

If the applicant is married, the consent and request of the spouse are also important. Spouses should apply together.

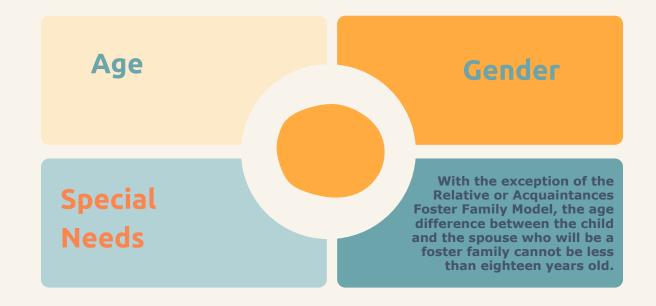
Those who do not meet the conditions of being a foster family will be notified in writing.

(She/He has the right to appeal within 15 days, after which she/he is re-evaluated and decided within 1 month.)

The ranking is created in provinces with a high number of foster family applications.

Monthly maintenance payment: During the period of the foster family service, it is the amount paid to the foster families in return for the expenses related to the care, education, and upbringing of the children placed in the foster family, and the pocked money necessary for the personal development of the children.

### Can a Foster Family Candidate Specify Some Characteristics of the Child Before Matching?





### Can the child contact the Biological Parents?

Yes, meetings of the child with relatives or acquaintances from the previous environment are planned under the coordination of the social worker responsible for the child and the foster family. If deemed appropriate, he can stay with his biological family on leave for no more than 30 days a year.

### Why Should the Child Contact the Biological Parents?

As long as there is no possibility of harming the child from the biological family, it is the most natural right to meet with the biological family in accordance with the principle of the benefit of the child.



### Can I become a foster parent of a foreign child?







### Has a special application been opened to become a foster family for children affected by the earthquake?

No.

There is no temporary, voluntary foster family practice specifically initiated for children affected by the earthquake. Applications can be made for the usual foster family model. In the foster family model applied in Turkey, children are placed in a foster family to be cared for until they are returned to the family. This may take a month, ten years, or the child may be prepared for life in a foster home until he or she comes of age without being returned to the biological family.

# Adoption



To become a mother, it is not necessary to give birth to children.

People who protect a child, take care of him/her, love and accept him/her also become parents.

Those who raises a child not only in her womb but also in her heart also are mothers.

Those who are not biologically related to a child but who work hard and love him/her are also fathers.

Those who work to raise a child and who put everything they have into bringing that child into society are also parents.



### Adoption

It is the establishment of a child-parent relationship by establishing a legal bond between a child who is eligible for being an adoptee and a person or spouses who are eligible for adoption.





### Conditions of adoption

- Spouses have been married for at least five years or both have reached the age of 30,
- The adoptive person or spouses must be at least 18 (eighteen) years older than the adoptee,
- The child has been cared for and trained by the adopter for at least one year,
- Having the consent of the child's parents, (excluding the provisions in Articles 311 and 312 of the Turkish Civil Code dated 22/11/2001 and numbered 4721) If the child is under guardianship, the permission of the guardianship offices has been obtained,
- Obtaining the consent of the child who has the mental competence,
- The adopter must have at least a primary school graduate,
- Adoption must in any case be found for the benefit of the child.



#### Forms of adoption

In our country, the adoption of someone who has the conditions for adoption takes place in two ways:

- From organizations affiliated to the Ministry of Family and Social Services,
- From the child's biological family or guardian. (In adoptions made in this way, the parties should apply directly to the Family Court, and in the absence of the Family Court, to the Civil Court of First Instance.)

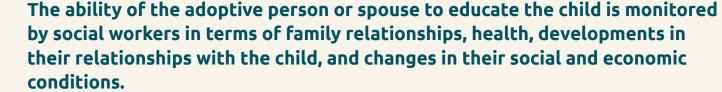


### Placement of the Child

The child is placed with the adoptive person/spouse with a "Temporary Care Agreement Before Adoption". After the signing of the Temporary Care Agreement, the adopted child is placed with the person or spouses deemed suitable for his or her care and education for at least one year.

### Monitoring

A child should placed in accordance with the legislation during the one-year period of temporary care before adoption.



As a result of the monitoring, monitoring reports are prepared in quarterly periods.

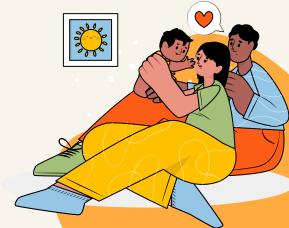
If the adoptees also have descendants, their attitudes and thoughts about the child are also evaluated in the monitoring report.

The attitude and behavior of the adoptees towards the child are supervised by the institution, and counseling and guidance services are also provided if necessary.



### **Completion of the Adoption Process**

At the end of the one-year monitoring period, the file containing the social examination report is prepared to be filed for adoption in the relevant court within a month.





Adoption procedures according to Article 314 of the Turkish Civil Code, "Records, documents and information related to adoption cannot be disclosed in any way unless there are a court decision, or the adopted person requests it." is kept confidential.

However, it is useful to explain the following: Although it is a very low probability, there is always a risk that the parents of the children in the mentioned group will show up and search for their children one day. However, these objections are the subject of a lawsuit and must be applied to the relevant court.



The file information of the adopter is sent to the relevant court, in confidentiality, together with the reasoned report prepared by the Ministry of Family and Social Services, General Directorate of Child Services, and based on the benefit of the child.



#### The Rights Acquired by the Child by Adoption

- Adopted children legally have the rights of biological children.
- •The rights and convictions belonging to the parents are transferred to the adopter.
  - •The adopted one becomes the heir of the adopter.
  - •If the adoptee is a minor, he takes the adoptee's surname.
    - •The adopter can give the child a new name if he wants.
- •The names of adoptive spouses are written as the names of parents and fathers in the population register of children who were adopted together by spouses and do not have the power to distinguish.
- In order not to damage the inheritance and other rights of the adoptive and in order to maintain family ties, all kinds of ties are established between the family register where the adoptive person came to be transferred and the family log of the adoptive family. In addition, the final court decision on the adopted person is processed in both population registers.
- •Records, documents, and information related to the adoption cannot be disclosed in any way unless there is a court decision, or the adopter does not have consent.
- If the adopted person wants to access information about his/her biological family, he/she should submit the necessary information and documents, if any, to the Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services, if the city where the court that made the adoption decision is located is known and the person still resides in the same province. In the absence of the mentioned conditions, the necessary research can be done about them when applying to the General Directorate of Child Services of The Ministry.

Can I adopt a foreign child?

Yes. However, in this case, the international adoption directive applies.



At what age are children eligible for placement in a foster home or adoption?

At any age, the child needs individual attention, love, and affection.



if he/she wants his/her biological family...

Or if child don't like me...

If child rejects me because we don't have a blood relationship...

if I can't get used to it...

if child is taken back from me...

if I can't be a good parent...

There are problems in every family. Problems are differentiated according to the child's developmental period. The main thing is not to cover up the problems. **Open communication** is important.



### Can children whose biological parents are still alive be adopted?

Yes





### Can people with biological children adopt?

#### Yes



During the adoption process, it is important that every person in the adoptive family is also involved in the process, and prepared before the adoption. Family members should approve.



### Can the biological family appear after the adoption process?

There is always such a possibility. But the process of making the child eligible for adoption is also a long and painstaking process.



### Should the child be told that he/she has been adopted? Why?

#### Yes

It is very likely that your child will learn about this situation from someone other than you when he/she is not ready.

This will open irreparable wounds in the life of both you and your child. For this reason, it should be shared with the child in the appropriate age range (4-6 years old) that he/she was adopted. And the child should learn this from his/her adoptive parents.

It is especially important to learn before adolescence, in terms of passing this process easily. Adolescence is a sensitive period when the child questions herself/himself and the process in which she/he is in.

## The difference between the "foster family" and "adoption":





Although these two areas have some common features, the most important distinguishing feature is the custody of the child. In the the "Foster Family", the <u>custody</u> is in the biological family of the child. However, the state shares the responsibility for the care, upbringing, and education of the child with the foster family within the framework of certain principles.



In the "Adoption" process, in which a child-parent relationship is established through a legal bond between a child who is eligible for adoption and the person/spouses who are eligible for adoption, the child's custody, care, upbringing, and education responsibility belong entirely to the family.



Is the purpose of foster family and adoption to have a child or to provide a loving family environment?

Sharing love is the most basic goal.



At what age do children need individual attention, love, and care?

At any age!





The conflict that every child experiences in their developmental period are **confused** with the conflict experienced in the foster family and adoption process. For example, every child may show some rebelliousness during adolescence.



Does the family contribute to the child in this process, or does the child contribute to the family?

Both sides add value to each other.



### What is the main thing in foster care or adoption?

### Child benefit.





### Is adoption and foster care religiously prohibited?

According to the book is published by the Religious Foundation of Turkey Being a Foster Family in Islam, during the time of our Prophet, children who
did not have a caregiver were preparing for life with other families. There are
children whom Prophet Muhammad personally cares for. Reservations
regarding adoption in Islam are handled within the framework of the mixing of
ineage and inheritance law.

### After foster care and adoption:

- -<u>Open communication</u> with the child is important. It may be more hurtful for him/her to hear from someone else what you don't say.
- -In the first process, neither excessive compassion and love nor excessive suspicious and distant communication should be established with the child. **Balanced communication** is most important of all.
- -He/She may have questions, it's very natural. If you worry about the questions, he/she will also feel this anxiety and may think that something is not right. However, foster care and adoption are **natural** processes just like biological family
- -You may have difficulty adapting and communicating with the child. This is also very natural. It can take time for two people to get used to each other. When you need it, these processes can be overcome with professional support.
- -Biological families also have many communication and adaptation problems. It is not correct to associate these problems only with the adoption and foster family process.
- -There are many families who going through the same processes as you.

Remember **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!** 

Change begins in the language.

THE PROPER
DICTIONARY
(DOĞRU SÖZLÜK)

### #YanlışıDoğrusu

### KORUNMAYA MUHTAÇ ÇOCUK

### KORUNMAYA İHTİYACI OLAN ÇOCUK



### #YanlışıDoğrusu

## EVLATLIK ALMA

### **EVLAT EDINME**



# #YanlışıDoğrusu EVLATLIK

### **EVLAT EDINILEN**



### #YanlışıDoğrusu

## GERÇEK ANNE - BABA

### BİYOLOJİK ANNE - BABA



## Recommended Books (For children and families)

Uğur Böceği Kapınızı Çalarsa, Prof. Dr. Neşe EROL

Seni Öyle Çok İstedim Ki, Marianne RICHMOND

Burgulu Saç ile Anka, Alev TOPAL

Kıtır'ın Evlat Edinilme Hikayesi, Özgür AKÇAÖZ DÜVEN

Sıcak Bir Yuva, Samuel LANGLEY-SWAN

Ama Bu İnek Yumurtluyor, Andy CUTBILL

Martıya Uçmayı Öğreten Kedi, Luis SEPULVEDA

Sisle Gelen Çocuk, Paloma SANCHEZ IBARZABAL

Gaston, Kelly DIPUCCHIO

Şanslı Aile, Kirsten BOIE

Benim Annem Bir Goril, Frida NILSSON

Küçük Bulutun Annesi Kim, Emine AKYÜZ

## Recommended Books (for professionals)

- •Köpek Gibi Büyütülmüş Çocuk, Bruce D. Perry
- •Erken Çocukluk Döneminde Dezavantajlı Çocuklar, Buket ŞEN ve Diğerleri
- •Koruyucu Aile, Evlat Edinme Hizmetleri ve Ruh Sağlığı, Prof. Dr. Neşe EROL
- •Seninle Başlamadı, Mark Wolynn
- •Bağlanma ve Sonraki Yaşlarda Görülen Etkileri, Turhan YÖRÜKAN
- Yuvalar Kapatılsın, Abdullah OSKAY
- •Doğan CÜCELOĞLU Kitapları
- •Bengi SEMERCİ Kitapları
- •Selçuk ŞİRİN Kitapları

### Academic publications (for professionals)

Türkiye'de ve Dünya'da Korunmaya İhtiyacı Olan Çocuklara Yönelik Hizmetlerin Tarihsel Gelişimi, Dr. Elif GÖKÇEARSLAN ÇİFTCİ

Cumhuriyet Dönemi Korunmaya Muhtaç Çocuklara İlişkin Politikanın Oluşumu, Abdullah KARATAY

Çocukluk Çağı Travmalarının Koruyucu Aile İçinde Sağaltımı Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme, Bilge ABUKAN

Uzmanların Gözünden Türkiye'de Koruyucu Aile Programı Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme, Zülal ŞAHİN KAYA

Koruyucu Aile Hizmetlerinde Değerlendirme Süreci, Yrd. Doç. Cengiz ÖZBESLER

Koruyucu Annelerin Koruyucu Ailelik Sürecine İlişkin Duygu ve Düşüncelerinin İncelenmesi, Ayşegül SERTOK

### **Recommended Movies**

Trying

Şipşak Aile

Kör Nokta

Lion

Robin Robin

In Safe Hands

### For more information and support:

Koruyucu Aile, Evlat Edinme Derneği (KOREV)

Telefon: 0312 215 62 12

Mobil Telefon: 0536 865 97 81

Eposta: korev@korev.org.tr



### Hayat Sende Derneği

Telefon: 0312 229 44 46

Eposta: bilgi@hayatsende.org



## Resources

www.korev.org.tr

www.hayatsende.org

Çocuk Koruma Kanunu (5395 Sayılı)

Koruyucu Aile Yönetmeliği

Evlat Edinme Yönergesi

Aile ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı

https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/koruyucuaile/sss-sayfasi

https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/uploads/chgm/uploads/pages/yayinlar/evlat-edinme-mevzuat-isleyis-siklikla-sorulan-sorular.pdf