

Early Permanence Animation Transcript

[Image: hand holding a polaroid photo of a boy and girl]

[Jessica] Hi, I'm Jess and this is me little brother Jake. We've been through a lot together.

[Image: shadows of Jess and Jake's parents arguing in the foreground of the polaroid photo]

[Jessica] Our mum and dad had problems with drugs and our life with them was quite traumatic.

[Image: Jess and Jake with storm clouds above them]

[Jessica] They loved us, but they couldn't keep us safe or give us the things we needed to grow up happy and healthy.

[Moving image: Jess and Jake in a doorway with packed suitcases and bags before the door closes on them]

[Jessica] So, just before my sixth birthday, we left our home and moved to foster care. We didn't understand why we were leaving and missed our mum and dad and our home, even though it hadn't been a happy place for us.

[Image: Jess and Jake in a bedroom with their foster parents]

[Jessica] Our foster carers were really kind, but just as we started to finally feel more settled, we had to move again.

[Image: Image of Jess and Jake in a different bedroom with new foster carers]

A new family to meet, a new home to get used to, a new bed to sleep in, and for Jake, another school to be bullied at.

[Image: Jake sitting on the floor in his bedroom looking sad. A dark shade moves in around him]

[Jessica] Each time we moved, my brother became more and more withdrawn. Making less friends at school and spending all his spare time alone.

[Image: Woman sitting behind a desk with lots of files. She is reading a folder]

[Jessica] After moving six times in four years, it was decided by a judge that we would be adopted by a new family.

[Moving image: closed doorway with packed suitcases and bags. The door opens and Jess and Jake peep around the door]

[Jessica] At first, we were unsure. It was hard for us to trust people. We didn't really believe it was happening. Was this forever?

[Moving image: Jess and Jake's new adoptive parents appear next to the doorway. Two adult coats and two children's coats four coats appear on the wall and two pairs of adult wellington boots and two pairs of children's wellington boots appear on the floor underneath the coats]

[Jessica] Our adoptive parents reassured us that they weren't going anywhere, that this would always be our home, and that they would always be there for us.

[Moving image: Jake in a room with a sideboard. Freddy the dog enters and approaches him. Jake strokes Freddy]

[Jessica] It took a little time, but Jake finally started to come out of his shell, helped mainly by our dog Freddy.

[Moving image: A friend of Jake's enters the room and sits down opposite Jake]

[Jessica] We eventually made new friends, and after we felt more settled, our adoptive family took us on loads of adventures, like camping and weekends at the beach.

[Moving image: a green family car driving along a road with suitcases attached to the roof.

[Moving image: an alarm clock appears. The alarm clock changes to a bowl of breakfast cereal, which then changes to show Jess and Jake's adoptive mother outside their school gates]

[Jessica] Having a normal routine, little things, like having breakfast at the same time, our adoptive parents picking us up from school every day, like every day.

[Moving image: Jess and Jake sitting on a sofa in the living room. They are then joined by their adoptive mother and father. Jake cuddles into the adoptive mother]

[Jessica] Being warm and safe on the sofa allowed us both to finally settle. We felt part of something that would last. We could finally start living our lives, and just be kids again.

That was eight years ago now, and our lives are amazing. We love our adoptive parents.

[Image: a baby wrapped in swaddling in a crib]

Eighteen months ago, a baby called Tilly came to live with us. She was only a week old.

[Image: a cot mobile with shapes]

[Text: Early Permanence]

[Jessica] Unlike our journey, Tilly came to us through something called Early Permanence.

[Image: three sets of families. One single mother holding her son. She is standing next to her older daughter. A same sex male couple holding a baby and a mother holding a baby stood next to a father, their oldest son and a younger daughter]

[Jessica] This is where families who would like to adopt have young children placed with them in a foster care arrangement, with the hope of adopting the child in the future.

[Moving images: baby Tilly sleeping in her cot with a cot mobile above. Teenage Jess and Jake appear to the right hand side and their mother and father appear to the left hand side. Bedroom furniture appear around them all.]

[Jessica] In most cases, the young children go on to be adopted by the family, but there is a possibility that the child may return home to their parents if this is the right plan for the child.

[Moving image: Tilly as a baby crawling on the floor]

It's amazing seeing her grow up,

[Text: without disruptions,]

[Moving image: young Tilly walking with a baby walker]

[Text: endless moves,]

[Jessica] without any of the disruption, endless moves, and the stress that we had to go through.

[Image: Jess and Jake kneeling down around a flower bed. Tilly waters the flowers with a watering can and Freddy the dog sits beside Tilly]

[Jessica] Like me and Jake, it was decided by the family courts that Tilly wouldn't be able to live with her mum and dad again.

But unlike us, Tilly has been in a loving, safe family home her whole life. Our little family. I can't think of a better start in life for her, and we're so proud to be part of it.

[Text: This animation was inspired by a real-life story, names have been changed to protect identities.]

[Text: Thank you to Jess* & Jake* for sharing their story with us to help raise awareness of Early Permanence]

[Image: logos of all of the adoption agencies involved in the regional early permanence partnership. Caritas Care, Arc Adoption, Adopt Coast to Coast, Cumbria Adoption, Adoption Matters, Adoption Tees Valley and Adopt North East]

[Text: Commissioned by Adoption England – Regional Adoption Agencies Working Together]

[Image: Adoption England logo]

[Text: regional adoption agencies working together]