Adoption:

What’s Love Got To Do With It?
Health Warning
and general notices
Part 1 - Context

History...

1960s - relinquished babies
1980s - The Children Act 1989
1990s - families for children
2017 - speeding up adoption
History...

Why adopt?
Why adopt?

To be a parent

To complete my family

To have a family like many other families in my community...
History...

Why adopt?

Who adopts?
Who adopts?

a) 34 y/o, female, single, heterosexual

b) heterosexual couple, 59 & 45, white British

c) gay male, 37, single, unemployed

d) couple, 25 & 26, black British/white Irish
Looked After Children and Children (Adopted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>(3,770)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>(3,100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>(5,360)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>(3,820)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[From DfE National Statistics – rounded]

Philip Teasdale 2019
How many babies were placed for adoption in 2018?
## Adoptions per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age:</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In care</td>
<td>69,470</td>
<td>70,400</td>
<td>72,590</td>
<td>74,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoptions</td>
<td>5,360</td>
<td>4,710</td>
<td>4,370</td>
<td>3,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age: Under 1</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 4</td>
<td>4,070</td>
<td>3,390</td>
<td>3,090</td>
<td>2,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 9</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 15</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[From DfE National Statistics]
Beware – trauma ahead

Philip Teasdale 2019
Adopted children bring with them a spectrum and continuum of challenges...
Adopted children bring with them a spectrum and continuum of challenges...
Child compromised in

Sensory and motor integration
Executive functioning
Attachment
Different views

The system
The parent
The child
Different views – The child

You can’t trust adults
Nothing lasts, everything is transient
I am unlovable
Part 2

Adoption:

What’s Love Got To Do With It?

Philip Teasdale 2019
At what age did you start to count?
The power of 2
Adoption is dyadic

parent - child
Adoption is dyadic and reciprocal

Parent bonds with child

Child attaches to parent

Philip Teasdale 2019
Parenthood

Love at first sight?

Unconditional love?
Parenthood

Birth – conception, 9 months, birth, sleepless nights, feeding, changing, attunement ...
Parenthood

Birth – conception, 9 months, birth, sleepless nights, feeding, changing, attunement ...

Adoption - ?
Parenthood

Reciprocity of need...
we each put something in and get something out

Philip Teasdale 2019
Parenthood by adoption is complicated by other relationships
Parenthood by Adoption
Parenthood by Adoption

Philip Teasdale 2019
Parenthood by Adoption

A ---- B ---- C

A ---- P ---- C

Philip Teasdale 2019
Parenthood by adoption is complicated by trauma
Child to Parent Violence (CPV)

A form of domestic abuse, but not by definition

Philip Teasdale 2019
Child to Parent Violence (CPV)

Threat, escalation - incident de-escalation, reparation, reconciliation.

Philip Teasdale 2019
Don’t take it personally...

She doesn’t mean it...
Don’t take it personally...

Some children find it too hard to be nurtured.
Adoption relationships

Golden threads or Barbed wire?
Adoption relationships

Hughes and Baylin - Blocked care
Adoption relationships

Hughes and Baylin - Blocked care
Blocked love?

Philip Teasdale 2019
Adoption - the future?

- Family making not family finding
- Post adoption support
- Better assessment – psychological
- Better matching
Adoption:

What’s Love Got To Do With It?
Thank you for listening
phil.teasdale2019@gmail.com
It’s therapy Jem,
but not as we know it
Therapy assessment...

a) 1 hour
b) 2.5 hours
c) 1 day
d) 5 days
Therapy – core team...

2 child psychotherapists
Occupational therapist
Education specialist
Parent mentor

Weekly/fortnightly – 1 day

Philip Teasdale 2019
Therapy – core team...

2 child psychotherapists
Occupational therapist
Education specialist
Parent mentor

Weekly/fortnightly - day

Philip Teasdale 2019