

## Coram Adoption: Film Transcript

### Rachel and Shezad

Rachel: We've got two teenagers who are birth children and two younger ones, our nine-year-old is an inter-country adoption and our five-year-old was through Coram.

Shezad: When we first saw his picture, he was very young, he was a child obviously and...

Rachel: ...he was a baby, seven months...

Shezad: ...and he, of course the looks are the first thing that you see, and he looked like, actually he looked like a member of my family.

Rachel: Funnily enough we'd always talked about adopting from quite soon after we met, it was actually Shezad who was keen to adopt and I had never really thought about it.

Shezad: We're Muslims and Islam from the very beginning has had a... has placed an importance on looking after those who are unable to look after themselves.

Rachel: Shezad's family historically have had some experience of adoption, not in a formal way, but in India and Pakistan. Family life was quite fluid.

We were very excited about this adoption early on because we knew that there weren't many Muslim adopters and that therefore... if there's a Muslim child that needs a home – and here we were, a Muslim family wanting to adopt – that we had a good chance.

Shezad: Coram acted very professionally. They are obviously an organisation who are very familiar with adoption, but also dealing with a number of different agencies, as well as making sure all the legal procedure are put in place and that made it a lot easier for us.

Rachel: It was very reassuring to know about Coram's expertise in that field and to know that they were offering support later on as well. It wasn't a question of 'Ok, we'll find you a child, here we are, now off you go and deal with whatever comes'. But they said, you know, even years down the line they would be there.