**CASE STUDIES**

### Case Study 2: Secondary

*Below is an anonymised example of how the East Midlands Adoption Support Service (EMASS) has helped families. Provided by Sarah Lepley, Service Manager, EMASS.*

‘A school called as they were worried about a young person at their school whose behaviour was disruptive and aggressive. Once parental consent was obtained a home visit was arranged and an assessment was completed.

A Team Around the Child meeting was called so all those working with the young person and family could share information and make a plan of support. EMASS engaged the young person in some direct work to begin to build self-esteem and gauge how that young person was feeling about school and home.

The young person was experiencing some negative feelings about their identity and wanted to re-visit their Life Story work in a therapeutic way. Contact was made with the post- adoption support team at the local authority to take this forward. Parents were signposted to a therapeutic parenting course and the young person was offered counselling through the Adoption Support Fund.

At school a ‘safe person’ was identified and strategies around encouraging positive behaviour were agreed between the SENCo and young person, mediated by EMASS staff.

The use of approaches at school such as isolation and detention were minimised, while guidance on emotional coaching was provided by the local behaviour outreach support service to help the young person learn how to recognise and respond positively to emotional outbursts.

Behaviour improved for the young person at school and home, allowing them to make progress with their academic journey.’

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| Further information Family Action has been awarded a grant by the DfE to deliver a pilot adoption support service across Lincolnshire and the East Midlands. Working in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council and the East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency, the East Midlands Adoption Support Service (EMASS) aims to improve outcomes for adopted children and their families. The service will focus on providing attachment training and support for schools, as well as individual support for adoptive families. Find out more about the project from: [www.learning-exchange.org.uk](http://www.learning-exchange.org.uk)  Produced by Family Action: Unit 24 Angel Gate, City Road, Islington, London EC1V 2PT  [www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk)  Registered charity in England and Wales no: 264713 Registered company limited by guarantee in England and Wales no: 01068186  Read our disclaimer: [www.family-action.org.uk/disclaimer](http://www.family-action.org.uk/disclaimer)  Copyright © Family Action 2017This handout has been produced as part of the EMASS project. Permission is granted to reproduce for personal and educational use only. Selling without prior written consent is prohibited (eg as part of a commercial training programme).  *Last updated: 5.5.17* |