**CASE STUDIES**

### Case Study 4: Support to a pupil with additional needs at an independent school

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

‘Children’s services referred a family to EMASS for support as parents had expressed concerns about the lack of progress their adopted child was making in school. EMASS were happy to provide advice.

The child had been diagnosed with a range of additional learning needs and, although the school was providing targeted teaching assistance, they agreed that more specialist support was required.

Following a home visit, where the Family Star assessment was completed, the EMASS case worker investigated whether the pupil should be in receipt of Pupil Premium Plus as she attended an independent school by parental choice. Unfortunately, children educated in independent schools who have not been placed there by a local authority are not eligible for PP+.

The case worker attended a Special Educational Needs (SEN) review in school with the parents to get an understanding of how all the agencies were supporting the pupil. The outcome of the review was that all agreed the pupil needed the one-to-one support of a Teaching Assistant (TA) and specialist SEN teaching to meet her complex needs. This could only be achieved by applying for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The case ,worker met with the school SENCO (SEN Co-ordinator) to assist with the compilation of evidence for an EHCP application. The child was observed in the classroom by the case worker to provide practical evidence that TA support and specialist SEN teaching was necessary to meet her complex needs in school.

The EHCP was applied for and though the assessment had not been completed, the parents were happy for the case to be closed to EMASS as they felt that the educational needs were well on the way to being met.’

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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: 20.9.17* |