



nurture Fostering **Children's Guide**

An information guide for children and
young people aged between 5 - 10



My Details

This guide belongs to:

.....

Address:

.....

Phone Number:

.....

My Foster Carers:

My Social Worker:

Nurture Fostering Supervising Social Worker:

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Introducing Nurture Fostering to You

This is a guide to try and help you understand moving from your family to foster carers. If you would like to learn more please ask us or your foster carers we would be delighted to help you.

Sometimes, your mum or dad or who normally looks after you, can be prevented from giving you the care you need. There may be many reasons why they are not able to look after you. A foster carer is 'someone who is able to look after you when your mum or dad, or whoever normally looks after you; no longer can. Your foster carer will make sure you are well looked after, and will help you feel part of their family, while understanding that you may also have your own family, they will support contact with your family when this is planned. Nurture Fostering understands that every child is different and will do their best to find the right family for you.

Social Workers and Supervising Social Workers

Your social worker will support you, they will discuss any plans with you, and will want to know what you think. Supervising social workers work with the fostering family supervising and guiding them.

Meetings

Different types of meetings will take place whilst you are living with your foster carers, this is so that everybody can share information and work together to help you.

Keeping in Touch

Your social worker will help you to keep in touch with your family and people who are important to you. It is important that you tell your social worker about the people you want to see. You may hear the word 'contact' and that means keeping in touch with members of your family and those people important to you, where it is safe and possible to do so. Different types of contact include:

- Face to face visits.
- Overnight stays.
- Outings or events.
- Telephone calls.
- Exchanging of photos, videos, emails or letters.

Your Views



It is important that you tell us what you think and what you want, use the meetings to do this, also talk to your social worker, and your foster carer. Tell people what you like, and what you do not like. You can write your views in the 'Have your say' at the end of this guide, or ask your carer or social worker to write them for you.

Let's hear it from you!

Nurture Fostering would love to hear from you about your own dreams and aspirations! You may be a very good swimmer and dream of representing your Country in national competitions. You may be a talented musician with a desire to perform. Tell us the best way for us to help you achieve your aspirations and goals.

Let us know - email (or ask your carer to email) your dreams and aspirations to.

What should I expect from my foster carers and their family?

Your foster carers and their family will do lots of things to make you feel happy and comfortable whilst you are living with them. Wherever you live, you will be treated with respect and you should respect your carers and other young people you may live with. They will make you feel as if you are part of their family.

They will:

- Take you to school
- Listen to any concerns you may have or anything that is troubling you
- Organise activities and days out with you
- Support you with your school work
- Help you to ensure that you practice and understand your religion
- Play games with you
- Help you with your homework
- Listen to you when your angry, sad or happy
- Help you with your homework
- Help you keep your bedroom, clean, neat and tidy.



What Do I Call My Foster Carers?

This is something you'll be able to talk about with your foster carers because they know that it can feel strange living with new people. They won't expect you to call them 'mum' or 'dad', you'll be able to decide together what works best.

Dealing with Worries

'Do they know I don't like certain foods? Can my friends come round? Will I have to move again?'

Your foster carers will not mind you asking them about these sorts of things. They will try and help you with any worries you may have. If you would rather talk to someone else you can contact your social worker or your carers' supervising social worker.

Activities and Holidays

Nurture Fostering will fully encourage and support you to take up general leisure activities within and outside of the home. If you have any interests or hobbies e.g., football, swimming, dancing, photography, going out with friends, or going to the cinema; these will all be actively encouraged: If you want to be given the opportunity to try out new activities, make sure you tell your foster carer and they will do their best to support you. You may go on holidays, weekends or day trips, maybe with your family, friends or carers. This will be discussed between you, your family, your carers and your social worker.

Bedrooms and Personal Belongings

Whilst living in your foster carer's house, you will be given your own bedroom. This is a place where you'll be able to spend some quiet time where you can relax or do some home work. It is your own space where you can keep all of your personal belongings. If you have anything of value (e.g., jewellery, savings book) you need to let your foster carer know, so it can be kept safe. Your foster carers may need to go into your room from time to time but they will always knock first. Remember that you should never go into someone else's room without permission.



House Rules

When you first arrive at the foster carers house, there may be some rules that you need to follow; these rules maybe different to the rules in your family home, so use the space below to write down things that you will need to remember:

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All family homes have their own rules and these might be a bit different to what you are used to. You won't be able to do anything you want because your foster carers have made a promise to keep you safe. Rules are there to make the family home run as smoothly as possible, allowing you to keep safe whilst getting enough rest and nutrition you need to develop physically and healthily. Having rules doesn't mean your foster carers don't want you to have fun, because they do. They just want to keep you safe as well.

Education and School

Your foster carer will help and support you in your education by making sure you have what you need, including a quiet place to study. You need to attend school regularly and if you have any difficulties, talk them through with your foster carer and your social worker. If you don't go to school at the moment, your foster carers and your social worker will look at why, and work out how to solve any problems so you can return to school. You might be pleased about this or you might not but everyone needs a good education. If you haven't been to school for a while, you may feel nervous about returning but your foster carer will help you overcome any worries Remember that school isn't just about the lessons, it's also about making friends and taking part in after school activities.

Health Care

Good health is cool! Eating healthy food, taking part in physical exercise and things you enjoy. Your foster carer will make sure you're registered with a new doctor and a new dentist if you live too far away from your family home. They will also ensure that a health record is completed for you.

Our eyesight is one of the most important things to us and we need to have regular checks. Foster carers will make appointments with an optician and attend with you. If you have to wear glasses then your foster carer will help you pick out a fashionable pair.

Bullying

Children sometimes bully others because:

- They don't know it's wrong.
- They are copying older siblings or other people in the family whom they admire.
- They haven't learnt other ways of mixing with their school friends/peers.
- Their friends encourage them to bully.
- They are going through a difficult time and are acting out aggressive feelings.
- They may be jealous.

Bullying includes:

- People calling you names.
- Making things up to get you into trouble.
- Hitting, pinching, biting, pushing and shoving.
- Taking your things.
- Damaging your property.
- Threats and intimidation.

You should:

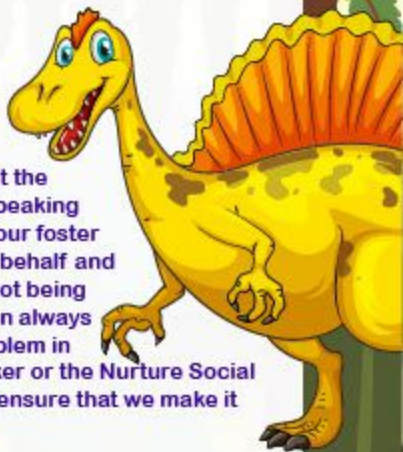
- Tell someone: teacher, foster carer or social worker.

What do I do if I am not happy or want to Complain?

It will depend who you would like to complain about, but the first thing to say is nothing bad will happen to you for speaking out. Problems at school we would suggest you talk to your foster carer first so that they can speak to the school on your behalf and try and resolve the issue. If you do not feel that this is not being dealt with well then talk to your social worker or you can always speak to both people at the same time. If there is a problem in your foster family then you need to tell your social worker or the Nurture Social Worker so that they can try and resolve the issues and ensure that we make it better.

Whatever is worrying you we can always try and sort it out, it is always best to speak to an adult who will be able to look at the best way of dealing with things and support you through this.

You can always telephone Nurture and speak to the registered manager - the telephone number is 0208 690 9012. We also have some useful telephone numbers on the back of this guide.



Useful Contacts



Useful telephone numbers for you or your foster carer can make these calls on your behalf:

Organisation	Telephone	Website/Email
Nurture Fostering	0208 690 9012	www.nurture-fostering.co.uk
The Children Commissioner for England	0207 7838330	Info.request@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk
The Children's Rights Director for England	0800 528 0731	www.rights4me.org
Ofsted (Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills)	0300 123 1231	enquires@ofsted.gov.uk www.ofsted.gov.uk
ChildLine 24 hours helpline	08001111	www.childline.org.uk
The Who Cares	207 7251 3117	mailbox@thewhocarestrust.org.uk www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk
Voice	0808 800 5792	minfo@voiceyp.org www.voiceyp.org
Rights 4 Me	0800 5280731	www.rights4me.org
NSPCC – National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	0800 1111 – child helpline	www.nspcc.org.uk

Check out Nurture's Kids Zone at www.nurture-fostering.co.uk/kids-zone to access your information hub

NSPCC

If you need help or advice, or are concerned that you or another child may be at risk.

The helpline is open 24 hours a day.

Tel: 0808 800 5000
Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

Nurture Fostering Agency

If you need to contact us then our details are:

340 Lewisham High Street,
London, SE13 6LE
Tel: 0208 690 9012

Independent Review Officer
write the name and contact number of your IRO below.

Name:

Contact:

Number:



Your Details

Name: Date:

Foster Carer's Name:

Supervising Social Worker's Name:

Enjoying Life & Achieving

What activities do you like to do?

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How often do you get to do these activities?

Do you like school?

What's your favourite subject?

Does your foster carer encourage you to do your best?

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Health

Are you aware of the benefits of regular exercise and eating well?

.....

Do you understand what is meant by a balanced diet?

.....

Do you have any specific needs or worries in respect to your health?

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Staying Safe

Do you feel safe in your foster placement?

Do you feel safe at school?

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Is there anything we can do to make you feel safer?

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.....

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Making a Positive Contribution

Are you given the opportunity to make your own choices?

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For example, clothes to buy and wear?

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Do your foster carers help you develop practical skills for everyday life?

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Economic Wellbeing

Do you receive pocket money?

Do you have a bank account?

Are you receiving the advice you need to manage your money?

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Summary

What are your foster carers like?

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If you could change three things, what would they be?

1.

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2.

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3.

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Thank you for taking your time to fill out this form. You are the most important person to us and we want to know that we are providing the best possible service for you. To help us do this we need to hear from you. Please write your thoughts and suggestions here:

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Don't forget!

Use this page to write down the things you would like to discuss with your social worker or supervising social worker.

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 **nurture**
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