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What to do next?

Contact us for impartial advice about all the options open to you.

All kinds of people foster, including single people as well as couples and families who already have their own children.

Our foster carers can expect:

- All the back-up and security that only a large local authority can provide with 24-hour support for you and your family;
- Tailored training in person and online to boost your skills and experience;
- Nationally rated allowances with extra weeks for holidays, birthdays and festivals, plus payments to recognise your hard work and skills;
- Regular placements and planned breaks.

If you are thinking about fostering, we'd love to talk to you.

Please ring **0116 454 4500** for a discussion or to ask us to send further information to you.

T: 0116 454 4500

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**fostering &
adoption**



Thinking about fostering?



What is fostering?

If you enjoy having children around, and you have enough time and a spare bedroom, fostering may be for you.

It can be emotional at times, but fostering is one of the most fulfilling and enjoyable things you could ever do in your life.

Foster carers look after children who are at risk of abuse or neglect. These children may need a home with you for a few weeks or months or sometimes longer.

The children are all ages from babies and toddlers up to teenagers and young mums with their own babies. Sometimes sibling groups of two, three or more children need homes where they can stay together. Some children are disabled.

Foster carers don't break families up: they give hope and support at a time of crisis and often enable families to get back together.

Fostering is about more than providing meals and a place to sleep. Foster carers work in partnership with everyone else connected to a child's life to keep children safe, healthy and happy.

Foster carers are a vital stepping stone on a child's journey to a brighter future, helping them focus on school and make good relationships with others.



Types of fostering

We want to make fostering as rewarding as possible for our families. We can't promise that everything will always be easy. But we do promise that our team will be there to help you along every step of the way with excellent training and preparation and with continuing care and support for you and the children with you.

WHICH AGE-GROUP?

Some foster families only look after babies and toddlers. Others feel better able to care for older children or teenagers. Many foster all ages.

GIRLS OR BOYS?

Some families only foster girls and some only foster boys. Most don't mind which.

HOW MANY CHILDREN?

Some families foster one child at a time. Others have time and space for two, three or more children who could be brothers and sisters who need a home together.

SHORT TERM

A child becomes part of your family until he or she can either go back to their birth family or move on to a new permanent family. A child can be with you for days, weeks or months – sometimes longer depending on circumstances.

PERMANENCE

A child becomes part of your family until he or she reaches the age where they move onto further education or set up their own home. Permanent fostering is very similar to adoption. The main difference is the legal status of the child.