

## What kind of children need foster carers?

Children come from all kinds of backgrounds and have a variety of experiences. We need carers who can look after children of all ages, from babies to teenagers. People who become foster carers can discuss the age of the children that they feel will best fit into their family and what type of fostering would best suit them.

Children may move back to their birth families or plans may be made to find a more permanent placement. Some teenagers move on to living independently when they are ready.

## What happens next?

If you would like to find out more about fostering or you have questions about your eligibility and the sort of children who currently need families, contact us now and we will be happy to give you more information.

If you would like this Could You Foster a Child? leaflet in large print, braille, on audiotape or in another language, please phone 020 7974 6649.

إذا أردت كتيب "هل تفكر برعاية طفل؟" بالطبعة الكبيرة أو بلغة بريل أو على الشريط أو بلغتك الأم الرجاء الاتصال مع رقم: 020 7974 6649.

আপনি যদি 'কুড ইউ ফস্টার এ চাইল্ড?' এই লিফলেটটি বড় অক্ষরে মুদ্রিত আকারে অথবা ব্রেইল বা অঙ্কলিপিতে, অডিও টেইপ বা বাজিয়ে শোনার কেসেটে অথবা আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 020 7974 6649 নাম্বারে ফোন করুন।

اگر چنانچه میخواهید به جزوه فرزند خواندگی کودکان به صورت چاپ درشت - چاپ برجسته و یا نوار صوتی و یا اینکه به زبان خودتان دسترسی یابید لطفا با شماره تلفن 020 7974 6649 تماس حاصل نمایید.

Si vous souhaitez obtenir ce dépliant Could you foster a child? (accueillir un enfant) en gros caractères ou en braille, sur support audio ou dans votre langue, veuillez contacter le 020 7974 6649.

Haddii aad jacsaan lahayd in warqadan, Could you foster a child? (Ma korin kartaa ilme?), lagaaga sameeyo daabacaad weyn, qoraalada ay dadka indhoolayaashu akhriyaan (Braille), cajiladaha maqalka ama luuqadaada lagu turjumo, fadlan la xidhiidh 020 7974 6649.

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could you  
**foster**  
a child?



## What do you need?

- Some experience of parenting, childcare or working with children or young people.
- An ability to work as part of a team, as well as enthusiasm, resilience, warmth and a sense of humour
- A space in your home and in your heart.

## We can offer:

- Information and training workshops to prepare you for fostering.
- Ongoing training programme to support your needs.
- A generous financial allowance.
- Ongoing support with a social worker as well as a 24 hour phone support line.
- Essential equipment such as beds and cots.
- An active independent foster care support group for extra support, guidance and friendship.

We need carers from all ethnicities, cultures and religious backgrounds. If you are single, married, gay or lesbian, in or out of work, a tenant or homeowner, we want to hear from you.

## What is fostering?

Fostering is caring for children in your own home while their own parents are unable to.

Being a foster carer can mean looking after children for as little as a day, a week, a month, a year or several years. It means helping children to thrive in a caring and safe environment.

## What do foster carers do?

Foster carers provide children with day-to-day care and stability. This involves working in partnership with social workers, parents and other people involved in a child's life to meet their needs. It includes looking after their educational and health needs.

A large part of a carer's job is helping a child keep in contact with their parents and wider family and friends. Moving to a foster home is usually an upsetting experience for a child. Foster carers need to help children settle in by listening and talking with them.

Children need stimulation, understanding, a secure environment and support to help them understand why they are living away from home.

Although fostering can be demanding, it can also be extremely rewarding as you will be making a very important and positive contribution to a child's life.