



What Fostering Involves

A guide for prospective foster carers

Fostering is more than providing a roof over a child's head—it's about offering safety, stability, and a sense of belonging during a time of uncertainty. Whether short-term or long-term, every placement is a chance to make a lasting difference.

The Role of a Foster Carer

As a foster carer, you'll:

- Provide a safe, nurturing home environment
- Support the child's emotional, physical, and educational needs
- Work closely with social workers, schools, and health professionals
- Attend meetings, training, and reviews related to the child's care
- Help children maintain contact with birth families when appropriate
- Advocate for the child's wellbeing and development

The Children You'll Care For

Children come into care for many reasons, including neglect, abuse, family breakdown, or parental illness. They may be:

- Infants, toddlers, children, or teenagers
- From diverse cultural and religious backgrounds
- Living with physical or emotional challenges
- Part of sibling groups or unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

Each child is unique—and so is the support they need.

Types of Fostering Placements

You may be asked to provide:

- **Short-Term Care** – Temporary support while long-term plans are made
- **Long-Term Care** – A stable home until adulthood
- **Emergency Placements** – Immediate care during crisis situations
- **Parent & Child Placements** – Support for young parents and their babies
- **Therapeutic or Enhanced Care** – For children with complex emotional needs
- **Medical Needs Placements** – For children with ongoing health conditions



- **Remand Placements** – For young people awaiting court decisions
- **UASC Placements** – For unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- **Sibling Group Placements** – Keeping brothers and sisters together
- **Respite Care** – Short breaks for full-time carers
- **Staying Put Arrangements** – Support for young people beyond age 18

Training & Support

You'll receive:

- Pre-approval training (Skills to Foster course)
- Ongoing development and specialist workshops
- 24/7 support from your fostering agency
- Regular supervision and peer support groups

Financial Support

Foster carers receive weekly allowances to cover the cost of care, plus additional payments for specialist placements. You'll also benefit from tax relief and financial guidance.

The Impact You'll Make

Fostering isn't always easy—but it's always meaningful. You'll help children:

- Feel safe and valued
- Build trust and confidence
- Heal from past experiences
- Discover their potential

Your care could change a life forever.