

Your Guide to foster care

If you have received this leaflet, it means that you are being looked after by homefinding and fostering agency carers.

There is some things that you might need to know.

Foster care means you are living with a family that is not your birth family. It might be for a short time or a more permanent home. You might be living in foster care with a brother or sister.

*It might be just you
At homefinding we try and find a family that is best for you. One that will suit you. we take lots of things into account when we do this.*

Your religion, your culture and staying close enough so you can stay at the same school or college. If that's best for you.



What to expect

In foster care you should have what you need. That is much more than just nice food, clean clothes and pocket money. Your foster family need to be able to give you space when you need it. They should listen to you and realize that is probably going to be a tough time for you. You can ask as many questions as you need. They are not the only people around that you can ask either.

Being in foster care means that lots of people are involved.

It is important to know who everybody is. To start with, there is your foster family. They are someone you should be able to talk to about your feelings, and your wishes. They will have their own social worker and you will get to know that person too.

MEETINGS!

Meetings are a necessary thing. Sometimes Young people hate these meetings. They think that people are interfering or they are a waste of time. Other young people see them as a good opportunity to tell everybody how they feel and it is a chance to ask questions, or make your feelings known.

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My birth family

We know that you are not living with your birth family. This does not mean that your family just disappear. There will be arrangements in place about when and where you see your family. This is called contact. This is organised by us here at the agency. You might see your parents or brothers and sisters or grandparents in at an organized time that suits everybody. There might be another adult at the contact making sure that is nothing is said or done when you see your family that might upset you or cause you worry. You will get to know this person too. Ask your social worker what contact arrangements are being made for you.



Going home or staying put?

You will have a meeting with your social worker and your carers called a review. This should happen every six months. At this meeting, it is discussed how things are going. It helps plan for the next six months and longer term. It might be agreed that you should return to live in the family home you have come from, or with another family member. It might be that you just stay where you are.

Staying healthy!

Your foster carer is expected to get you registered with a doctor, a dentist and an optician locally. It is important that you attend these appointments.



Useful Numbers

Ask your Social worker or Foster Carer for the numbers that you need.

My social worker is

Their telephone number is:

Their email address:

Emergency number:

My Foster Carer's

Supervising Social worker is:

Their number is:

People to call if you need to talk to someone else or are worried about something.

Ofsted 0300 1231231

enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Chief Inspector, Ofsted National Business Unit, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street,
Manchester M1 2WD

Childline 0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

Children's rights service 0800 5280731

www.right4me.org

Voice 020 7833 5792

www.voiceyp.org

National Youth Advocacy Service 0800 616101

www.nyas.net

NSPCC 0808 8005000

www.nspcc.org.uk

The Homefinding & Fostering Agency 01622 765646

www.homefindingandfostering.co.uk

If you are unhappy and want to complain about something you can call our manager
Gill Fewins on
01622 765646

Or email her

Gill.fewins@homefindingandfostering.co.uk
More information is available on our website.

www.homefindingandfostering

