

## How to become a parent and child foster carer

For those new to fostering, parent and child foster carers are approved in the same way as other foster carers, which includes ongoing training and a family assessment.

Currently approved carers who want to develop into being approved as parent and child foster carers, will have supplemental training and an additional assessment process.

Want to find out more?

## Contact Us

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# Parent And Child Fostering



## HOMEFINDING AND FOSTERING

Information for foster carers



## Career Development

Existing foster carers often see the opportunity of parent and child fostering as a career development opportunity.

Several of our fostering families continue to care for siblings or solo placements on a longer-term basis whilst supporting parents and child placements.

## Payments

Foster carers providing parent and single child placements will be paid for two placements, equating to £785.40 per week.

*“The parents often have no experience of being parented themselves and need a chance to prove themselves.”*



## Outcomes

Everybody involved want the best outcomes for the children. Parent and child placements make it possible to make informed decisions. You are expected to provide robust evidence of the parent's abilities.

Through day to day involvement, parents can be helped to recognize how to care safely for their baby or child.

*"It can be heartbreaking watching a parent realise that they just don't have the ability to be the full time carer for their own child"*

Whatever the outcome of the assessment, we hope both children and their parents can take forward positives from their experiences, helping them face future challenges.

The best outcome does not necessarily mean the parent remains the carer for that child. You and the parent will be provided with support if it's decided that remaining together is not in the best interests of that baby or child.



## Homefinding and Fostering provide specialist foster placements for parents and their child/children.

Parent and child foster carers are specialist carers, supporting parents for a time focused assessment period. Babies and young children remain in the care of their parents whilst these assessments take place, so their attachments are not disrupted.

There is no typical parent and child placements. Parents can mean either mum or dad and the parents age can range from 15 to 50. The child could be a newborn released straight from the hospital into your care or a school aged child.

They are not all first-time parents either. Some have had previous children removed from their care and this could be seen as their last chance.

### Could you do it?

You need the ability to provide adequate space in your home, with a bedroom large enough for at least one parent and a child.

You need to be able to work effectively with a parent by being warm and supportive, whilst maintaining professional boundaries.

A nonjudgmental flexible approach is essential, so that you can make calm and objective observations whilst arming vulnerable adults with the skills to prioritise their child's needs. Foster carers will need to produce clear and precise records reflecting the parent's ability to care for their child. You need to accept there are times when you stand back and others when you step in.

But you will not be on your own.

# Our commitment to you.

## Safe. Secure. Supported.

As a fostering agency, we will always try and match you to a parent and child placement that suits your family. This might mean a mum who has already had experience of losing children through the care system, or a younger mum needing support and guidance with their first baby.

We operate an out of hours service so that there is always someone available to support you and your placement.

You will have a social worker to guide you at every step. From the settling in period, through the assessment and final decisions and transition.

In addition, we operate a buddy system so you have another carer you can turn to, for support when you need it or just to talk issues through with. When a placement is supported, it is more likely to be successful.

*“it is amazing  
helping mums  
blossom into  
confident parents.”*

When continuous adult supervision is required, respite support will be available from other carers and our dedicated team at Homefinding and Fostering. This is in addition to support groups and training available.

Ongoing training and regular visits are something all carers can expect from Homefinding and Fostering.

