

What is Fostering?

*A guide to fostering for children
at school by the Homefinding
and Fostering agency*



This is your guide to what it is like living with a Homefinding and Fostering family

This is me

All children need a grown up or two to take care of them,. This is a time when that grown up isn't from your birth family.

Sometimes, living with a different family is a really worrying time. This book is for you to keep and to help you answer some of those questions. What is Foster Care? Living in foster care, means living with a different family.

This may be a big family with lots of other children, or just you. Each foster family is as different as you. We try really hard to match you with the family that is best for what you need.



What do we promise to you?

We will....

Find you a family that is right for you

Help your foster carer give you the best care available

Talk to your social worker and foster carer to make sure you are looked after as you should be

Talk with you and listen to what you have to say

Make sure you are safe and healthy

You go to a school that is right for you

Have the chance to be part of clubs and activities you are interested in.

Who are these people?

It might seem like there are a lot of new people in your life when you come into foster care. But you will get to know them. You can talk to any one of them if you have any questions or worries.

Social Worker

Supervising Social Worker

Independent Reviewing
officer

Name

Number

You might know who they are already. They help to plan what should happen next.

Name

Number

You should meet this person, your foster family know them well, as they work at the Homefinding and fostering agency and help your foster family..

Name

Number

They get to know you and are part of the meetings people have when they make plans.

Getting to know each other.

- Getting to know you...
- You need to tell us what you like.
- What is your favourite dinner?
- Are you frightened of anything?,
- What is your favourite things at school
- What you will miss most about home?
- Getting to know your family
- Your new family might do things differently than you are used to. They might have family rules.
- But it is important that everyone feels safe about how you behave around each other in the house.
- Some examples might be about knocking on each others bedrooms doors, or having rules around using the internet or a phone.

Ask what the rules are if you don't know!

What will your foster family do?

The important thing is that the grown up looking after you is doing a good job. They need to keep you safe and healthy.

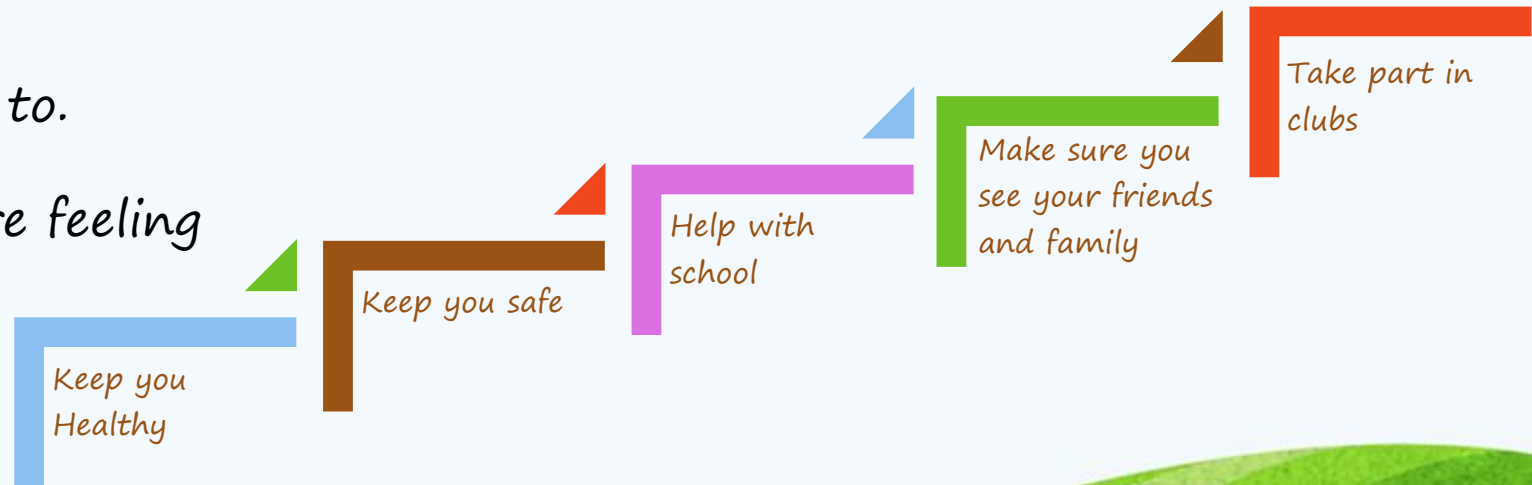
They need to make sure you go to school and have space to do your homework. You should have your own bedroom, unless you share with a brother or sister. You should see a doctor, a dentist and an optician, not just when you first move to live with them but every year.

You should have pocket money and have the chance to choose your own clothes. You should have time with your family and friends.

You should have the chance to be able to talk to someone if you want to but space and privacy is you don't.

It is important that you feel listened to.

They need to understand how you are feeling and they need to try and help you understand too.



What about school?

We try very hard to keep you at the same school. Especially if you are doing well and have friends there. This may mean a longer car journey with your very own personal driver!

A teacher at school will know that you are in foster care, but it is up to you who else knows. If you don't want to let anyone else know you don't have to.

Your foster carer will get to know your teachers and make sure you have all you need for school. Your foster carer will also try to make sure that you go to the same after school clubs you like going to.

Friends and family don't just disappear because you have moved. Your foster carer and social worker make arrangements so you can see them or they come to you. This is sometimes called contact.

The arrangements have to be made so it is right for you. It might be in a different place, and there might be another person there making sure it is a good contact.

It is a good idea to ask your social worker about contact arrangements and what they will mean for you.

What if I am unhappy?

Living in Foster Care isn't always easy.

Sometimes decisions are made that you may not understand. Sometimes you may feel unhappy at how you are being looked after, but there are lots of people you can talk to. We don't want you to feel unhappy.

You can speak to your foster carer, your social worker or, if you prefer, you can call any social worker at the Homefinding & Fostering Agency 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
01622 765646

You can ask to speak to the Independent Reviewing Officer at your next Looked After Child Review.

We may talk to your foster carer about if you think there are things we can change which will help you. Or we will try to help you to understand why those rules are there.

If it is about someone else, and you have a worry about an adult you trusted has harmed you, or is behaving in a way that confuses you, we will listen and respond to what you have told us. You won't get in trouble.

If you think you are being bullied, which includes someone calling you names, or sending you upsetting messages, we will do everything we can with the adults around you to prevent and deal with bullying.

Here are some useful numbers of other people who might help if you are worried or if you don't feel you are being listened to.

Ofsted
Phone 0300123 1231
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Childrens Rights service
Phone 08005280371

Childrens commissioner
www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Childline
08001111
www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC
08088005000
www.nspcc.org.uk

Our manager Gill Fewins
01622 765747
Gill.Fewins@homefindingandfostering.co.uk

