

Support

Fostering is about working together with the Education and Children's Services Team to achieve the best outcome for each child. Fostering is an increasingly skilled job and you will be invited to attend a series of preparation groups. Once you are approved as a foster carer you will have your own supervising social worker, from the Family Placement Team, on hand to give advice, guidance and support. You will also have the opportunity to attend regular support groups with other foster carers and take part in ongoing training.

The child you are looking after will also have his/her own social worker and you will have an invaluable role in the regular meetings, which may include the child's teacher and other professionals, to plan towards the child returning home.

Equipment

The Family Placement Team will provide you with the essential equipment you might need, from our own local contractors/suppliers; this includes beds, towels, stair gates, pushchairs etc. for the young people you look after.

What happens next?

If you would like to find out more please contact the Family Placement Team and you will be visited at home by a social worker from the Family Placement Team who can discuss any queries you have in more detail.

COMMUNICATING CLEARLY

We are happy to translate on request and provide information and publications in other formats, including braille, tape or large print.

如有需要我們樂意提供翻譯本，和其他版本的資訊與刊物，包括盲人點字、錄音帶或大字體。

Zapewnimy tłumaczenie na żądanie oraz dostarczymy informacje i publikacje w innych formatach, w tym Braillem, na kasecie magnetofonowej lub dużym drukiem.

ਅਸੀਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਤੇ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਤ ਆਠਕਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੁਸ਼ਟਕ ਪੁਸ਼ਟ ਕਰਦੇ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਬਿੰਦੂ ਚਿੱਠੀ, ਟੇਪ ਜਾਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਆਦਿ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

Körler için kabartma yazılar, kaset ve büyük nüshalar da dahil olmak üzere, istenilen bilgileri sağlamak ve tercüme etmekten memnuniyet duyuyoruz.

اگر آپ چاہیں تو ہم خوشی سے آپ کو ترجمہ فراہم کر سکتے ہیں اور معلومات اور اجازت دیکھنے والوں میں شمولیت (تعمیراتی) کے لیے انگریزی سے ہونے والے حروف کی گمانی (تعمیراتی) میں اضافہ یا ہٹانے سے حروف کی گمانی میں اضافہ کر سکتے ہیں۔

Tha sinn toilichte cadar-theangachadh ma thèid iarraidh agus fiosrachadh agus foillseachaidhean a thoirt seachad ann an cruthan eile.

Contact 0131 270 7500 or email: communications@midlothian.gov.uk

INTERIM FOSTER CARE



For more information please contact the duty worker at the Family Centred Care Team on: **0131 270 5678** or familycentredcareduty@midlothian.gov.uk
www.midlothian.gov.uk/fostering

“We love the support & rewards of fostering”
FOSTER MIDLOTHIAN



What is Interim foster care?

Fostering is about looking after someone else's child in your own home. It is a way of providing care and protection for a vulnerable child or children while his/her parents receive help to sort out their difficulties and work towards having their children home again.

There are all sorts of reasons why children may need to be looked after away from home; some children may have experienced physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Some parents, because of their own childhood experiences, may not know how to care properly for their children. Some parents may have drug or alcohol problems. Other children will need to be looked after because of a family crisis.

Although children usually return home to their own family, sometimes this is not possible. When a decision is made that a child cannot safely return home at all, then we will seek a new permanent family for a child, possibly through adoption.

Who can foster?

There is no such thing as the ideal foster carer. All children are different and we are looking for a wide range of people and families from different backgrounds.

Carers may be straight or gay, single, married, in a civil partnership or a couple in an enduring

relationship. Some foster carers have children of their own who are still at home, or children grown-up and living independently. Others may have no children of their own but have experience of working with children or helping out with friends' or relatives' children. Above all we are looking for people above the age of twenty-five who are flexible, have plenty of energy and common sense. Whatever the age group you choose to work with you will need patience and a sense of humour.

Some practical issues are important, for example at least one adult in your family needs to be home-based and not out at work full-time. This is because carers are expected to be available during the day for the regular meetings with Social Workers and other professionals or to respond to emergencies with the child. If everyone in your family is in full-time employment perhaps you would be interested in respite care?

No one with a record of offences or of violence against children will be considered.

How old are the children who need fostering?

We need foster carers for all ages of children, from babies to teenagers. Your Social Worker will discuss with you during the home study what age of children will best fit into your family, the age group

you find most rewarding to care for, and take account of your particular skills and experience.

Below are some examples of when foster care may be needed:

Sam (12): Sam's mother, Amy, has a long history of alcohol related problems and in the past Sam has been cared for by relatives during periods when his mother has been in hospital. Amy is now doing less well and the social worker, despite the support provided, is becoming increasingly concerned about lack of care and parental supervision. School is also worried about Sam's unexplained absences.

Amy's relatives say they have had enough of her drinking habits and will not become involved this time.

Sam has been referred to the Children's Panel who are likely to want Sam placed in foster care.

Emma (6) and Michael (3): have parents with a long history of abusing drugs and of violent behaviour. Their father is currently in prison after seriously assaulting their mother, an assault that the children witnessed. The children's mother, with Social Work support, has been making a great effort to overcome her problems. In recent weeks however the situation has deteriorated and a decision has been made that it is not safe for the children to remain there.

The only family support had been from the children's grandmother but this support has been withdrawn as the grandmother blames the daughter-in-law for her son being in prison. There are no other relatives who can assist so Emma and Michael will need to be cared for by foster carers.

How long do children stay?

There is no easy answer to this. Depending on the situation it can be days, weeks or months.

More than one experienced Midlothian foster carer can tell you about the child they were asked to look after for three days... and is still there; twelve months later!

Children come into care as a last resort only when all community supports have been tested out. It therefore can take some months before firm plans are in place for the children.

Fostering is about teamwork

The plan is for children to return home and so it is not the foster carers' job to replace the parents. Foster carers need to work with the child's parents or sometimes grandparents, to help them maintain contact to minimise the damage and distress caused by this separation.