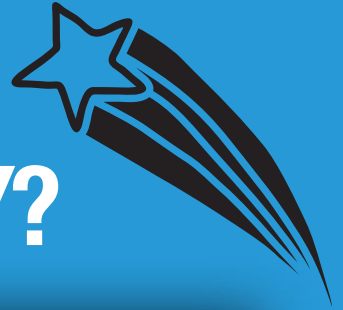


WHAT IS A FOSTER FAMILY?



Words and pictures to help you
understand what a foster family is

**I love
you!**



**Mum loves being
your parent. You have
lots of happy times
together like days
out and holidays. She
loves you very much
and always wants you
to be happy.**



Family



Children join their families in all sorts of different ways; some children live with their birth parents like you, some children live with their Grandma's, or Auntie's, or Uncle's and some children live with a family that is different to their own.

This includes when families become a Foster Family for children.



**I can give
you everything
you need!**

Foster Families are special because they take care of children in their home and make sure they have everything they need.

Children go to live with Foster Families for lots of different reasons including when their birth family hasn't kept them safe or given them everything they need.

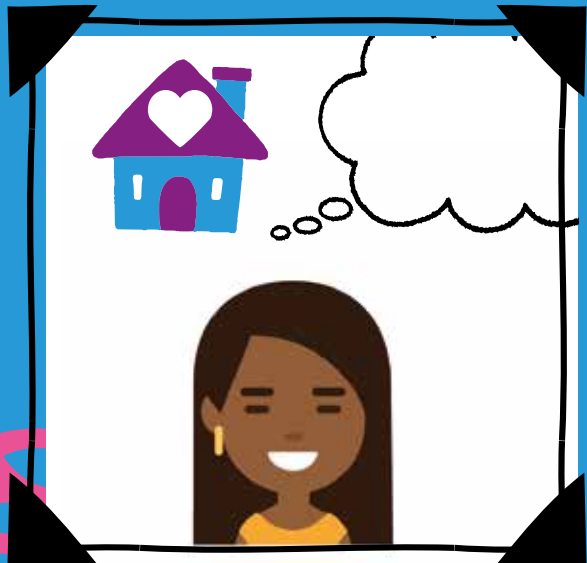
Children can stay with Foster Families for a short time or a long time depending on when a decision is made about where the best place would be for them to live as they grow up.

Some children always live with Foster Families, some children are found a 'Just Right' family to live with and some children return to live with their birth families.

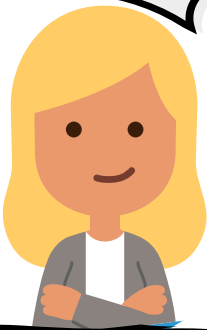


Mum has been thinking about fostering for some time and whether you and her could be a child's foster family.

Mum's job will be to give a child somewhere safe to stay and give them everything they need like food, clothes and affection. She will help them to see their family safely and explain to them why and what decisions have been made. If you want to you'll be able to help them too, especially by playing with them!



I will talk to everyone and make sure decisions made are the best for everyone.



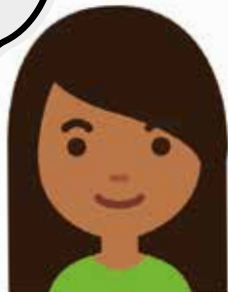
To be a child's foster family, Social Workers must do an assessment of the adults in the house. They also talk to any children that live with them. This is so they can carefully find the child that they think will best suit their family and make sure everyone feels happy.

Foster families each have their own Social Worker who visits them regularly and checks the family are ok. You will be able to talk to them about any worries you might have.

If it is agreed about being a foster family, Mum will keep checking in with you and make sure you are ok. Things may be different at first, but she will be there for you.

She understand the idea of bringing someone new into the family might be scary and you might be worried about how life will change. You will still get to do all the things that you love!

I'm are always here for you!



There are lots of other birth children who are part of Foster Families and you might find it helpful to meet some of them.

Social Workers run a scheme called 'Sons and Daughters' where you can meet other children and they hold lots of different events you might want to join in with like craft days and picnics.



What will they be like?

Will I have to share my things with them?

Will we still do things together?

What will they be like?

It's ok to feel different things and have lots of questions about fostering. You can ask Mum anything you want and if she doesn't know she can ask the Social Workers.

Mum will be able to talk to you more about this; she will always make sure she still has time for you. She loves you so much!

Here are some words you might hear adults use when talking about fostering. Can you find them in the wordsearch and ask Mum to explain what they mean?

T B C O N T A C T K F A R N C
G H J R E T S G N I L B I S O
S U P P O R T L S I K E U I N
S S E N I P P A H B C D F W T
B S A F M W A C A N Y R O E A
F T R A U M A E R L H O R T C
K I P T S A W C I B H O E N T
E T I P S E R M N E M M V E C
R S S S C V A N G L R T E N E
Y L I M A F K O O E B A R A N
F F S C H O O L X N M M C M T
A F Y T E M P O R A R Y H R R
M M R S S H N U A P A A V E E
J I K P A R E N T S E R R P H
B N F O S T E R L E V O L M N

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Contact | Trauma | Bedroom | Family |
| Birth Family | Support | Respite | Forever |
| Contact Centre | Temporary | Panel | Foster |
| Sharing | Permanent | Parents | Happiness |
| Love | School | Siblings | Care |



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