

# A quick guide on becoming a foster parent

Giving children in need a  
loving and safe home



For more  
information on the  
fostering process.

**Scan the QR code**



 Call us: 0800 369 8512

 Visit: [fosterplus.co.uk](https://www.fosterplus.co.uk)

# Why consider becoming a foster parent?

Opening your heart and home to a young person who needs your help can be such a rewarding experience. Regardless of how long they are with you, you can give them the love and support that they deserve and really make them feel like part of the family.

At Fosterplus, we're dedicated to delivering the support that you need to change the lives of young people in your care. We are proud to offer a full network of ongoing support to our foster parents throughout their fostering journey, including a 24/7 phone line, in-person support groups, foster carer mentors, and bespoke training opportunities so that you have the support you need to make a difference in a child's life.

**"I have been with Fosterplus for over 14 years. The support, training and professionalism that they offer is beyond compare."**

Sheila, foster parent



# The fostering process

The fostering process has six steps, which can take between 4 and 6 months to complete before you welcome your first child.

## Step 1 Enquiry

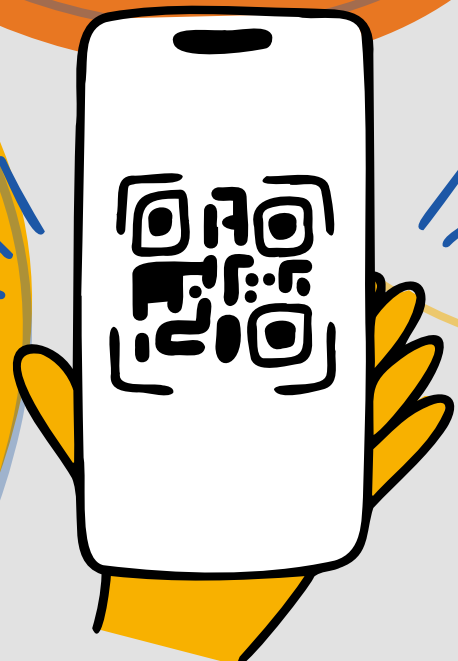
Are you ready to start your fostering journey? Give us a call on 0800 369 8512 or make an enquiry on our website.

## Step 2 Home Visit

Once you're happy to proceed, one of our friendly team members will arrange a visit at home or a video call to chat to you about the process. This gives you the opportunity to ask any questions you have about the fostering process, and for us to get to know more about you.

## Step 3 Your Application

Ready to apply? Now you can complete your application to become a foster parent with Fosterplus. You can complete this online and it will cover lots of different pieces of information. Our team are happy to help you complete the form if you have any questions. Your application will be reviewed by the assessment team, who will assign you a social worker if you're successful.



## Step 4

### The Fostering Assessment

When your application has been accepted, it'll be time for the fostering assessment to begin. This will include between 8 to 10 home visits, training days, as well as a series of checks and references. All of the information that your social worker gathers will be compiled into a document known as Form F.



## Step 5

### Panel and Approval

Your Form F will be shared with a panel of fostering professionals who will confirm your suitability to foster and approve you as a foster parent. Their recommendation will be shared with our Agency Decision Maker, who will inform you if you've been approved for fostering. You'll then sign a contract with us to confirm your status as a foster parent.



## Step 6

### Welcoming your First Child

Now that you're all approved, it'll be time to welcome your first child! Our referrals team will work to find a child suited to your family. The needs and preferences of your family will also be taken into consideration so that you are matched with the right child for all of you.





## FAQs

### How long are fostering placements?

Fostering placements can vary in length depending on the needs of the child in your care and the type of fostering that you're providing. Types of foster care that Fosterplus offer include short-term or interim care, which can range from 1 or 2 nights to 2 years, and long-term or permanent care, which can be anywhere between 2 years or until the child turns 18.

We also offer emergency care, respite care, and more, including foster care placements that are considered specialist, such as parent and child fostering, caring for those with disabilities, and those seeking asylum.

### What training is provided for foster parents?

Fosterplus offer a wide range of training to our foster parents throughout their fostering journey. This includes a preparatory training course that all our fostering applicants attend, a range of core training courses that you complete in your first year, and specialist advanced courses.



## What support is offered to foster parents?

We pride ourselves on building close connections with our foster parents and the young people in their care. We work hard to provide you with all of the support and services that you'll need throughout your fostering journey, including a dedicated social worker, regular support groups, access to Fosterplus management, and a 24/7 helpline with a qualified social worker.

## How long will it take for a child to be placed with me?

This can vary depending on your circumstances, approval criteria, and your preferences. The vast majority of our foster families will welcome their first child within a few weeks. Many of our foster families welcome their first child within a few weeks, although this can vary.

## Do I need to have any experience to become a foster carer?

You don't need to have any experience to become a foster parent with Fosterplus. Our foster carer training programme will give you all the necessary skills and knowledge that you'll need to care for a foster child. You might also find that a lot of your own life experiences, time spent parenting or working with children, provide you with transferable skills for fostering.







# Start your fostering journey today

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