

# CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO THE FOSTERING SERVICE under the age of 12



Things you need to know  
about being fostered



There will be over 60,000 children and young people in foster care today in England!

Every child and young person is different,  
**And** has a different story

**It could be because**

- A court has asked the local authority to care for you
- Or there isn't anyone who knows you well to look after you
- Or you may have asked to help
- Sometimes children live with foster families while social workers are finding out if there is anyone else in your family, or someone who knows you well, who could help



**Or they could be trying to find out when things will be all right for you to go back home**

## Every foster family is different too!

- There may be other young people or children being fostered with the family you are living with
- Or they may have children who have grown up, or of different ages still living at home
- We try to make sure your foster family has a similar background to you. If this isn't possible then they get help in understanding things. That might be speaking your language, understanding your religion, and good things about your diet and family traditions. We will get you an interpreter if you need one.
- And they will always try to understand your health needs
- We will help you keep in touch with people who are important to you
- We will try to keep you going to the same school but if it's too far you will be helped to choose a new one
- There will be regular visits from your social worker to discuss any problems, needs or wants with you



# Your foster carers are there to help you and you should always feel safe and well cared for while you are with your foster family

There are different foster families in **Be My Family Fostering Agency!** And they look after different children! When a family fosters a child they have a special social worker called a **"Supervising Social Worker"**. Like your own social worker.

It is important to a lot of people that your foster family cares for you in the best possible way. All these people work together to make sure that happens.

**Because you are the most important you are at the top!** Your foster carers or social worker will help you fill the names in



## You!

Your foster family

Supervising social worker

Their manager

Your social worker

Their manager

Their manager!

All of them together provide the "fostering service"

**And** because every child who lives with a foster family is important the government uses something called **"OfSTED - The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills"**

At regular intervals they come to talk to people who work for Be My Family Fostering Agency

# OfSTED - The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

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All the questions they ask and all the papers they look at help them to decide if Be My Family Fostering Agency is doing the best it can for children in foster care.

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One of the papers the inspectors look at is called the "Statement of Purpose". It is quite long! But it helps the inspectors to make sure that foster care in Be My Family Fostering Agency is good.

## My Rights

- To be protected from harm
- To be listened to
- To be helped to keep in touch with people who are important to me - if this can't happen my social worker will explain why
  
- To be told clearly what I can do and what I am not allowed to do
- To be treated well and equally for who I am
- To feel secure
- To follow the same religion I have been used to
- For any customs I have followed because of my race and culture to carry on and be developed
  
- Health care that meets my needs including emotional needs
- Support for my school work
- Help to develop interests I enjoy
- To be helped to complain if things go wrong and for someone to represent me
  
- To be helped to see a solicitor about my care order, or any other legal order affecting me - such as contact with certain people in my life

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Your social worker will help your foster carers check these things happen for you by making sure that everything important is written down on a special form. You should be given copies of these and you can discuss them with the social worker.

**And you should always be able to take part in decisions about your care and your future.**



## Care Plans and Reviews

- A Care Plan is about your future.

A Care Plan is about setting out what needs to be done for you. It is also about what you want from the plan and what you need to do to make the plan work.

- Reviews are meetings which Social Services must hold for all children who are looked after by foster carers.

Reviews are to agree your plan and make sure everyone is keeping to the Care Plan.

Reviews are also to see whether everyone is satisfied with what is being done and to make plans for the future.

You will have regular reviews while you are in foster care.

You will have someone called an Independent Reviewing Officer who is responsible for your reviews. You will be told who your Independent Reviewing Officer is, and you can talk to them about what you want to happen.

You can attend your Review. But if you don't feel ready for this you will be given the chance to fill in a Consultation Form.

The Consultation Form is a way of letting everyone know what you think and what you want.

You can use the Form AND attend your Review if you want!



## There are other people who can help and advise you in addition to your social worker and your foster carers

For some children who do not see their families much, it is possible to have an “**Independent Visitor**” - this is someone from outside Social Services and your family who can come and see you to talk through things from time to time. If you feel you would like to find out more about this then your social worker will help.

You are also welcome to call us on **02085 810352**  
or **email: [mail@bemyfamilyfostering.co.uk](mailto:mail@bemyfamilyfostering.co.uk)**

If you are not happy with the plans for you, you can talk to your social worker or their boss.

**If you are still not happy you can speak to their boss!**



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If you are worried or have a problem these people can help:

Your foster carers

Your social worker

telephone

email

Your Independent Reviewing Officer

telephone



Ofsted  
Picadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD

0300 123 1231  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

NSPCC  
(helping those children who are in greatest danger and  
distress)

0808 800 5000  
0800 1111

The Who Cares? Trust  
(a voice for children and young people in care)

020 7017 8901

Coram Voice (charity advocating for children and  
young people in care)

0808 800 5792

Be My Family Fostering Agency  
11 St. Albans Avenue, Feltham, TW13 6RL

02085810352 / 07875726999  
mail@bemyfamilyfostering.co.uk

And your foster carers or social worker will help you contact them if you like