



# Fostering for Adoption

## What is Fostering for Adoption?

It is important that the right adoptive parents are identified for a child as quickly as possible. Over the past few years, there has been concern that children are waiting longer due to systems currently in place. Fostering for Adoption is a way in which to reduce the wait for children as they can be placed with a family from a much younger age.

Fostering for Adoption enables the Local Authority to place a child with approved adopters, under temporary fostering arrangements. Approved adopters will also be approved as temporary foster carers, to enable the child to move straight to a potential adoptive placement rather than being placed short term with foster carers. When the case returns to court, the court makes a decision on whether the child should be adopted. If the court agrees that the child should be adopted, the placement then changes to an adoptive placement.

## Which children are placed in a Fostering for Adoption placement?

Typically, Fostering for Adoption is used with new born babies where there is a history of social care involvement with older children and no changes have been made by the birth family. The local authority pre-empt the court's decision and are confident that a child will not be returned to the birth family. Before the decision is made that a child should be placed in a Fostering for Adoption placement, the Local Authority needs to ensure that:

- ♥ A thorough and up to date assessment is completed on the birth parents, which shows that they cannot meet the child's needs
- ♥ Any potential family and friends have been identified and assessed to ascertain whether they can care for the child
- ♥ The paternity of the child is confirmed or there are no questions about this
- ♥ Adoption is the right and most realistic option for the child

## What are the positives of Fostering for Adoption?

- ♥ A child is placed in a family much younger, where it is hoped they will stay into adulthood
- ♥ Children do not experience the loss of carers who may have cared for them from birth
- ♥ Children begin to develop early and healthy attachments from an earlier stage
- ♥ Adopters can have the opportunity to parent a baby
- ♥ A Fostering Allowance is paid

## What are the risks and challenges of Fostering for Adoption?

- ♥ There is uncertainty until the courts have decided the child can be adopted. If a birth family member can care for the child, then the child may be moved back to birth family
- ♥ As most Fostering for Adoption placements are new born babies, there may not be a full understanding of any genetic or medical issues. There will also not be a photograph provided when being asked to consider a child
- ♥ Whilst fostering, the role is different to an adoptive parent and fostering regulations must be adhered to
- ♥ As the birth parents still hold parental responsibility, contact between the child and birth parents may be a number of times a week and carers must seek permission in relation to decisions about a child as they do not hold parental responsibility



## What does the fostering role involve?

As mentioned previously, until the court makes the decision that a child can be adopted with the making of a Placement Order, the prospective adoptive parents will be foster carers.

The expectations of this role include:

- ♥ Looked after child reviews within the home; 28 days after placement and then after 3 months
- ♥ Visits from the child's social worker, the fostering social worker and the adoption social worker
- ♥ The child to be taken to contact with the birth parents, often 2 or 3 times a week. As the placement is confidential, carers would usually meet a contact supervisor nearby for them to transport to contact
- ♥ To keep the birth parents up to date on the child's progress through a communication book which is passed between at contact
- ♥ Carers hold no parental responsibility for a child and would need to seek the Local Authority's permission for things
- ♥ To maintain a daily log of the child's progress

These expectations can place a high demand on day to day life and need to be carefully considered

**If you would like to find out more about Fostering for Adoption, please contact the office on 0115 955 8811 or email [enquiries@faithinfamilies.org](mailto:enquiries@faithinfamilies.org) and speak to one of social workers.**

Faith in Families  
7 Colwick Road, Nottingham, NG2 5FR  
0115 9558811  
[www.faithinfamilies.org](http://www.faithinfamilies.org)

