



Parent and Child Fostering Scheme

Foster Carers' Person Specification

Basic requirements:

- There is adequate space in your home – a bedroom large enough at least for one parent and a child, who also will be sharing your kitchen and other living spaces
- Live within one hour drive of at least one of the Consortium boroughs (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey and Islington)
- You can provide the level of supervision required (assessment placements can only be made in households that have at least one carer at home full time (i.e. not out of the home for work and/or other regular commitments))
- Ability to protect other household members (in particular children) in relation to risks that some placed parents will introduce into the home: it is not practicable to combine task centred fostering with parent and child fostering, and the vulnerability/needs of all other children in the household need close consideration

Competencies:

- To be an approved foster carer (or meeting the competencies so that approval will be possible) for children 0-4 and 13-18
- Ability to work effectively with a parent(s) who are resident in your home – appropriately balancing the need to keep professional boundaries with being warm and supportive
- Strong relationship building and communication skills for use with anxious, distressed and potentially resistant parent(s) and their networks
- Detailed knowledge of current expectations for good infant and child care, proven care-giving ability for infants, and the ability both to model and teach good parenting skills



- An ability (both for yourself and for your household members) to ‘stand back’, encouraging the parent to meet their infant or child’s day-to-day care, stimulation, affection and attachment needs
- Ability to accept ‘good enough’ parenting – managing your own and other family members’ feelings and emotions in order to approach your task with the parent in a non-judgmental manner, with due regard to any differences in culture and values
- Ability to make calm and objective judgments about what is safe care and what is not, with the ability to be assertive in managing any parental responses that pose a risk to the child
- Ability to work to the Fostering Minimum Standards and Guidance
- Ability to produce type-written records that are clear, precise and balanced, recognising that your records will be used within the assessment process and may need to be provided as evidence in Care Proceedings (the standard of recording needed in assessment placements is very much higher than in support placements). Foster carers will need to be able to distinguish between fact and opinion when making observations and records
- Ability to advocate effectively within the multi-agency network, to speak on behalf of the child, to assist the parent to put their case, and to articulate your own and your family’s needs

Want to find out more?

If you would like to have a discussion about the Parent and Child Fostering Scheme or any other type of fostering we would be happy to hear from you. Please contact:

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