

Samaritans

Permanency Support Program

**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT
ABOUT FOSTER CARE?**

Further information

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Fostering Lifelong Relationships

WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Foster care is providing a secure and safe home for children who can't live at home.

You can be a Foster Carer for just a few nights, weeks or for many years. As a Foster Carer you can choose whether you would like to provide short, long-term or permanent care. Whatever you choose to do, your commitment will be valued.



Why do children need foster care?

Children need foster care for all sorts of reasons. Sometimes it's because a parent is sick. Other times it could be because of serious abuse or neglect. Whatever the reason, these kids all need safe and caring environments for however long it takes to sort out the problems in their families.

Children can come into foster care at all ages. They all need suitable people to care for them. Some children will stay in care for weeks, some for years.

Types of foster care:

Emergency or crisis care - is needed when there are concerns for a child's immediate safety. Emergency carers need to be able to provide care at short notice, after-hours and on weekends.

Respite care - is needed when parents and carers need a break. Respite carers help for short periods of time, such as school holidays, weekends or for short periods during the week. Respite care is usually planned and scheduled well in advance.

Short to medium-term care - lasts for up to six months and has a strong focus on reuniting the child with their birth parents or extended family.

Long-term or permanent care - is needed when the child is not expected to return to their family.

Relative or kinship care - is when a child or young person lives with a relative or someone they already know.

What support will I get?

Training - The Samaritans Foundation will assist you with a range of training options that will ensure you have the skills to care for and nurture a foster child. This can occur over a number of weeks and is an ongoing process, at absolutely no cost to you.

Financial support - Foster carers receive a fortnightly allowance based on the age of the child. It will assist to feed, clothe, educate and meet the needs of the child in your care. The Samaritans Foundation will ensure that you do not go out of pocket in your care for the child.

Support - Our service is here to support you! This will include (at least) weekly phone calls, home visits and emergency support. The Samaritans Foundation will endeavour to do everything in its power to ensure that your fostering experience is all that you hope it to be.

