



Fostering for Adoption

Becoming a carer

Rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted



For more information visit:

www.adoptionmatters.org

MEMBER OF:
coramBAAF
ADOPTION & FOSTERING ACADEMY

BAAF Voluntary
Adoption Agency
of the Year 2012 & 2014



What is Fostering for Adoption?

Fostering for Adoption places a child or children with approved adopters who are also approved as foster carers (sometimes known as dual approved carers). During the fostering stage of the placement the courts are deciding what is in the child's best interests but the local council have already decided that adoption is the right plan.

If the courts decide that adoption is in the child's best interests, the child then stays with their current fostering for adoption carer who then go on to adopt the child.

Child development research consistently shows that the attachments children form early in their lives are crucial to their future development and that disrupting these attachments, particularly early in life, should be avoided. Therefore Fostering for Adoption is a better option for the child as they have fewer moves and carers in their early lives. However, the risks are placed on the fostering for adoption carers.

What is the difference between Fostering for Adoption and Concurrent Planning?

We also offer a concurrent planning service for young children who are **likely** to need adoption but whom still have a chance of being reunited with birth family. See: www.nwconcurrentplanning.org.uk

The main difference between the two is that in Concurrent Planning neither the court **nor** the local council have yet decided what the best plan for the child is, whereas in Fostering for Adoption the local council has decided that the right plan for the child is adoption, but the court is still yet to decide. As they are very similar, deciding between Concurrent Planning and Fostering for Adoption can be difficult, but we are here to help you understand both options and will explain both to you in full during our home visit to you. For many adopters, neither are the right choice and the traditional adoption route is preferred but we want to give you all options.

Why choose Fostering for Adoption?

Fostering for Adoption does have risks and you will need to work with the uncertainty of a child returning home. Although this is the exception, carers have told us that although it is painful when a child returns home, they have the satisfaction of knowing that they have given a child love and security when they most needed it and helped a family to be reunited.

You will be trained on working with birth parents, facilitating contact, understanding and dealing with uncertainty and prepared for the possibility of a child returning home. **Most children placed for Fostering for Adoption are very young, often infants.** Carers who go on to adopt get to know and love their children from a very young age and help them through the time in their life when they are most vulnerable. You will also get to know the parents of the child through contact which can form the basis for meaningful contact in the future and be an important source of information for the child in later life.

If you decide to become a Fostering for Adoption carer with Adoption Matters, you will remain as an approved adopter with us and the local council who places the child will approve you as a foster carer for them for the period of time until you formally become the child's adopter, or as above, the child returns home to birth family. The local council will usually pay you a fostering allowance for the period of time you are a foster carer (typically around 3-6 months) but in keeping with other adopters, you are not usually paid an allowance to adopt the child.

If you think that Fostering for Adoption may be for you, then please get in touch as we are actively recruiting Fostering for Adoption carers now.

For more information contact us on: 0300 123 1066
or visit: www.adoptionmatters.org

