



Frequently Asked Questions for **Children** who's **Parents Foster**



Your Questions **Answered**

When your parent or parents decided to become foster carers, they made a very important decision for your whole family, including you. Not only are they becoming foster parents, but you will become a foster brother or sister – together you will be a new foster family.

Being a foster family is a very important job and it will mean some changes for you all. It's important to think about how these changes make you feel, so that you are able to ask questions and share your worries.

FosterCare UK supports foster families and helps them look after children who cannot live at home with their own families. We are not only here to help foster carers do the best job they can, but we're here for you too.

It's important to us that you feel comfortable with being in a foster family and that you understand what's involved. To help you think about fostering and what it might be like to have a new foster sibling we have collected a few of the most commonly asked questions.

We asked children in your situation what they would like to know about fostering and about being part of a foster family.

What will it be like sharing my home with a foster child?

It might feel a little strange sharing your home and parents with someone else at the start. Fostering means you are gaining a new friend and many children who foster (that's you!) find it exciting. It can sometimes take a little time to get to know a new member of your family and so it's important to give it time.

It's important to remember that your new foster brother or sister might not be exactly like you. Children in foster care can be different ages and come from different backgrounds; you might even gain more than one new foster sibling.

When a foster child needs a new home, the FosterCare UK team will get in touch with your parents and talk through their

requirements for a new foster family. Your parents will then talk to you about it so you can decide as a family.

It's normal to feel a little nervous or scared when you meet someone new – so imagine what it's like for someone meeting a whole new family. You can help your new foster sibling feel at home by teaching them important things about your home, your family and all the fun things you do together.

Foster children often need their foster siblings to be patient and kind to them – especially when everything is so unfamiliar. Supporting them and being their friend is every bit as important as the job your parents do by looking after them.

Will fostering mean that my parents spend less time with me?

When a foster child comes to live with your family your parents will have lots of new things to learn. It might feel like they have less time to spend with you than they used to. If this happens (and it often doesn't!) it will only be for short amount of time before things get back to normal and your parents get used to their new responsibilities.

Everyone has hobbies, and your new foster sibling will be no exception. They might like sport, books, cooking or even just being with their friends. Your parents will make sure they support everyone's hobbies and needs – both yours and your foster sibling's.

Will I have to share my bedroom with a foster child?

No, you will not share a bedroom with a foster child.

We all need our own space at home where we can relax and be on our own. For many young people their bedrooms are this space.

Foster children need their own peaceful and private space. When we make decisions on where foster children go to live, we always make sure they will have their own bedroom.



Will foster children share or take my toys and belongings?

Just like sharing with your friends, you expect people to ask permission before playing with your toys or using your things. These things are important to you and you have every right to expect people to ask. At the same time it is important that you ask permission before touching a foster child's belongings – just like you would with your friends.

It's important that everyone respects each other and their belongings.

Some foster children may not have been as lucky as you to have lots of belongings or toys and may not understand that touching or taking things that are not theirs is wrong. When your new foster sibling moves in you will have to be patient and kind as they learn the rules.

What can I do if I don't get on with my new foster sibling?

It's great when everyone can be kind to each other and are friends but sadly, this doesn't always happen. It's important to go to your parents if anyone, including foster children living with you, is unkind to you so that they can help fix the problem.

You also have support from one of our Family Support Workers, whose job it is to help you and your family. You can also call the FosterCare UK Children's Helpline if you have any concerns.

Will my foster sibling bring a pet?

It's uncommon for foster children to bring pets with them. Sometimes, however, they bring small pets like hamsters or goldfish with them to a new foster home.





Will I have to meet and talk with Social Workers?

Your family will have their very own social worker who will visit your home regularly to make sure everything is going well.

At FosterCare UK we make sure that all of our social workers are kind and friendly. Our social workers are there to make sure that everything is going well with your family and your foster child.

Your social worker will spend most of their time talking to your parents – but sometimes they will want to talk to you. There is no need to be worried.

They just want to find out how you are feeling and how everything is going from your point of view. They will also be able to answer any questions you might have.

You might also meet someone called a Family Support Worker. FosterCare UK Family Support Workers visit foster families and the children who live in those families and organise fun activities for both foster and birth children – including exciting weekends away for birth children (that's you remember!). You don't have to take part in these activities, but you are always welcome to. If you give them a chance, you never know, you might have a really great time!



Where you can find us

The FosterCare UK Central Services provides support and guidance to our regional centres located in Kent and London.

Central Services is the main touch point for referrals, foster carer recruitment, HR and staff recruitment, finance, training and development.



London

FosterCare UK Ltd, Airport House, Purley Way, Croydon, CR0 0XZ,

Kent

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