

## Providing a home for a child in need

Adoption and fostering is for normal families!

**“Oh, I could never do that!” is the reaction many of us have when we come across someone else with adopted or fostered children. You may think that this is not for people like you. Or perhaps you have always had a yearning in your heart to provide a safe home for a child who may never have known that security. There is a desperate need for more people to consider whether adoption or fostering could be for them.**

Starting to explore fostering and adoption can seem daunting, but we have spoken to hundreds of foster carers and adoptive parents across the UK and they tell us that it really is well worth the hard work. The opportunity to offer a loving home to a child in need is one of the most rewarding and thrilling things you can do!

### So what are fostering and adoption?

Fostering provides children who cannot live with their own families with an alternative home where they can be cared for. Some children will return to their birth families, while others may later be adopted. Fostering does not have to be a full-time commitment. Some foster carers focus on providing short-term, emergency, or respite cover, while others may have a child placed with them for several years. All foster carers are registered with a local authority or voluntary or independent agency, and generally receive a fee for caring for the child.

Adoption is the legal process whereby one child or several siblings who cannot be brought up within their birth family, become full, permanent members of a new family. Adopters become the child's legal parents with the same rights and responsibilities as if the child was born to them.

### Who can foster or adopt?

You can foster from the age of 18 (21 in Scotland), and adopt if you're 21 or over. There isn't an upper age limit, although you will need to be physically able to cope with looking after a child. You can be single or married. You don't have to be well-off or own your own home to adopt, but you do need to show you are financially able to support a child.

### First steps

The Home for Good website is a great place to get started. You'll find more details of how it all works and where to go for more detailed information. If you're interested in adoption, you can also call the information line provided by First4Adoption. Their trained advisors can answer your queries or just have an informal chat with you, with no pressure, and no commitment.



“ We spend a lot of time at hospital appointments and fighting for what she needs, but she is so worth it. Despite her needs she has been a real blessing to our family and to our church's life. We have been amazed too at how our older birth children have nurtured and cared for their little sister.”

*Claire and Alan have three birth children, and adopted a little girl with disabilities*

“ We feel we have a unique opportunity to show a child love - loving them when it's hard; when they hurt you or when they're destructive; or when other people are unable to love them. It's a unique calling.”

*Emily and Simon are foster carers*



### Home for Good

Home for Good encourages more people to consider fostering or adopting.  
[www.homeforgood.org.uk](http://www.homeforgood.org.uk)

### FIRST 4 ADOPTION

First4Adoption is a dedicated information service for people interested in adopting a child.  
[www.first4adoption.org.uk](http://www.first4adoption.org.uk)  
0300 222 0022

Care for the Family, Garth House  
Leon Avenue, Cardiff CF15 7RG  
Tel: (029) 2081 0800  
[www.careforthefamily.org.uk](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk)

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