

Foster **for**
Warwickshire



Children and young people are at the heart of what we do.

We are committed to ensuring we listen to the children in our care and act on what they say.

Children need their voices to be heard to feel empowered and to know that they matter.

We asked them about their foster carers, to help people who want to foster understand the wishes and feelings of children in care.

The more we listen to our children, the more we have a chance to help them to flourish in all aspects of their life.

The Warwickshire Children in Care Council said:

'Lots of children in Warwickshire don't have families who can look after them. Becoming a foster carer would give you the opportunity to look after others and help kids get far in life. You would be helping children who are struggling, who need a good home, to get the right start. It will change your perspective of the world and you will see it from our eyes.'



The Warwickshire Pledge

Our promise to Care Experienced Children & Young People

We will:



Make sure workers **who work with you are there for you** while you are in care

Make sure you **stay in touch with people important to you**



Act as **your champion**

Make sure we support you to **prepare for the future and adult life**



Make sure we **support you to join in and have different experiences**

Make sure we support you to **stay physically and emotionally healthy**

Make sure we work with you to **aim high and achieve your goals and targets in education**



Keep your **best interest at heart**

Make sure we provide a **stable and safe place to live**



Make sure you **have a voice and take part**

What makes a fantastic foster carer

Having family who will involve you

Well informed

Willing to make you a **part of the family**

The **care** they give you

Empathetic

Listens to my problems

Someone who's **open** and you can **talk to them about anything**.

My foster carer, as **she is great**

A foster carer that **listens to you and understands** you and helps you if you are in need

Someone who is **caring, loving and helpful**

Care giving

Firm but fair. Someone who will **listen to your struggles**. Also, someone who is **interested in what you like** and if they're experienced with children

What makes a great foster carer is them **being there for you** and showing you that they **love and understand you**.

How have your foster carers helped you?

Caring



Made me **feel included**

Giving a **listening ear**

Helps my **mental health**

They got me **extra tutoring** and also taken me to **football and boxing**

They helped me be better behaved by giving me more **freedom**. For example, if I didn't get a negative at school all week I will be allowed a later bedtime!

Having a **home**



Fights for me

With **daily chores**

Stands up for my entitlement

Being **there for me** and **supporting me through everything**

Helping me be a **better person**

Giving a **listening ear**

Makes it so I know I can talk to them

Comes to **school** and helps

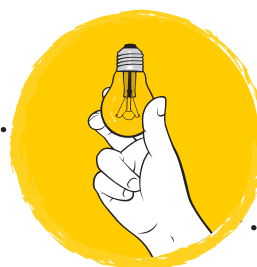
Calms me down when I am **upset**

Teaches me **independence**

By caring for me

Becoming **independent**

My foster carer has given me a **secure family home** and has encouraged me to do stuff like **helping me get a job**, and encouraged me to go to the theatre and volunteer there. Also helped me to be **independent and do practical things**.



Teaches me independence

With life

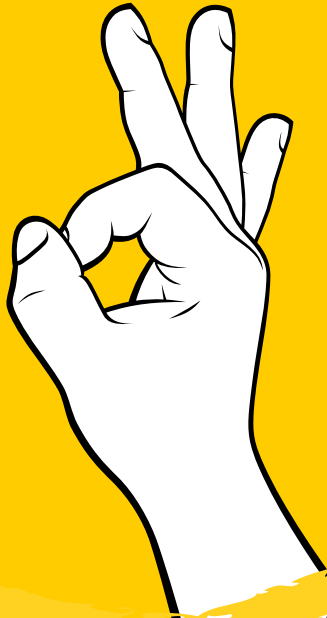
Would you like your foster carers to do anything differently?

Help me to calm down more

Nope ...

My foster carers are **perfect the way they are!**

No ...



I don't think that I would like to change my foster carer **because she is perfect as she is.**

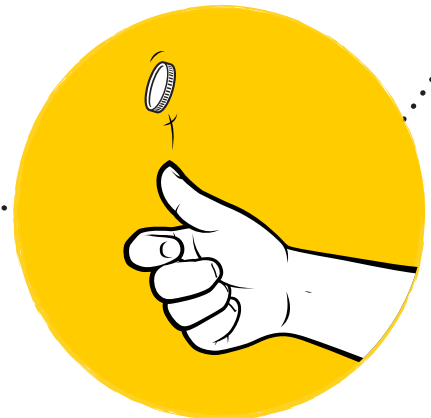
No.

She does **everything perfectly.**

Nothing

Give me more **hugs**

Get to **stay up longer**



More **pocket money!**

What would you say to anyone just becoming a foster carer?

Try to **learn things that a child likes to do** and try and **support them** if they want to do a sport or activity.

Play football and **help to learn to cook**

If you have your own kids, **don't have the foster child feeling left out**

Being a **calm** foster carer

Be a foster carer. Do what your heart desires and **you are saving children**

For someone who is becoming a foster carer maybe for them to understand the needs and **listen to the young people.**

Be careful with comments because **what may be joke for them might upset someone else**

That it is the **greatest job in the world**

Be prepared and always remember and be mindful that children, even the difficult ones, deep down have potential. I know that sometimes it takes time, but we will eventually get there.

I would say if anyone you know has a child, **you could ask to babysit them for an hour or two so you have a bit of experience** with different types of children.

For any future foster carer, please be patient for those children who do present themselves as challenging. Behind every child is a person without a mask, and sometimes we feel like we have to keep it on! We don't always mean to, but sometimes we can't take off the mask.

Every child needs love, and the local authority want to help us, so if you work with our social workers, and our network, we manage to live happier and healthier lives.

Remember that we all need a family, not always a big one, but sometimes just a small one.

Whenever you think of foster children, think of children who need support and need a second chance!

The Warwickshire Children in Care Council said:

'A good foster carer can have an impact on a child's stability and give them comfort when they need it the most. Giving a child a chance to be safe and talk openly about their feelings can really make a difference. Making us feel loved and being a parent figure we can trust is what we need. We want normality and to belong.'

“There's a dream behind every smile”

Callum, age 17

To be a foster carer

Foster carers for a start have a big heart

Foster carers guide in the life we ride

Foster carers share and show us they care

Foster carers are forgiving and always giving

Foster carers are tough when the going gets rough

Foster carers you will find are patient and kind

Foster carers have passion and show compassion

Foster carers are brilliant and need to be resilient

Foster carers are able in providing
a home that's stable

Foster carers stay both night and
day

Foster carers are aware
of the things that scare

Foster carers make you
stable and provide a place
at the table

Kalsey, age 9

