



The Children's Guide



fostering **2** inspire
part of Shaw Trust

Fostering2Inspire: how can we help you?

We understand that things may be very confusing and upsetting for you at the moment.

Fostering2Inspire is committed to ensuring that we, and your foster carer support you as best we can. Fostering2Inspire is the agency who your foster carer works for, and we will offer support and assistance to you and your foster carer.

Our goal is to provide you with:

- a safe place to live
- people who you can talk to and trust
- a place where you can keep in touch with people who are important to you
- encouragement to go to school or to a place that will provide you with valuable opportunities
- help to ensure you grow in a healthy way
- activities and fun times
- opportunities to make friends
- help to have your say in important decisions affecting your life
- Please remember to ask if there is anything we or your foster carer can do to help you

You can speak to your carer or their supervising social worker from Fostering2Inspire.



What is fostering?

Fostering is when you live with another family. This could be because it is not safe for you to live at home with your parents or other family members because they are sick, or the family is working through some problems. A foster home provides a safe and caring family environment. This can be for a short time or for longer periods.

Your social worker will talk to you about why you have come to live with your foster family.

Your foster carer will also help you ask any questions you have. It is very important to us you understand why you are living in foster care and what the plan is for your future.

During your time at your foster home

You will become part of the Fostering2Inspire wider family of young people, foster families, and staff. You will meet other children who live with foster families at agency activities and get together. Fostering2Inspire is a big family who is there to support you.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why am I in foster care?

It is difficult to tell you why you have come into foster care. Each child or young person who comes to live with a carer has their own story. It may be that your parent(s) are having some problems that makes caring for you difficult. If possible, your parent(s) will be working with your social worker to make sure the best decisions are made for your future. Your foster carer will help you speak to your social worker about the reasons you are in foster care and what the plan is for your future.

When will I see my family?

It is important for you to see members of your family where it is safe and when agreed by your social worker - if this is what you would like to happen. Your foster carer will speak with your social worker as soon as possible to make arrangements for you to either talk to or see your family members.

When will I go home?

It is likely a decision about when you can go home has not been made yet. Your wishes and feelings are very important to your foster carer and your social worker. Your foster carer will help you share what you would like to see happen in the future with your social worker.

Will I go to the same school?

Moving away from your home must be very upsetting and confusing. If possible, your social worker will try and ensure you keep going to the same school and we hope your foster carer will help you to get there each day. Your teacher will be aware that you have moved and are now living in foster care. Your teacher is there for you to talk to if this is what you would like to do.

Who can I talk to?

Everyone will want you to feel safe in your foster home. We understand that it may take you a little time to settle and get to know the new people in your life. Your social worker will visit you regularly in your foster home and you can ask to see them or speak to them over the telephone. Your foster carer and their supervising social worker are also available for you to chat to about any worries or questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

What decisions can I be involved in?

We want all children and young people to be involved in all aspects of what happens in our foster homes, making improvements and involving you in decisions that affect you.

We will talk to you about all decisions that affect you. This includes:

- Assessments and Care Plans – these plans will include your thoughts, feelings, wishes and aspirations.
- Decoration – you will be encouraged to decorate and personalise your bedrooms in a way that you like and reflects your uniqueness.
- Asking you if you wish to participate in asking questions when we interview new foster carers/staff.
- Ensuring we understand your likes/dislikes, what you like doing, your interests, things that are important to you and how we can help you for a brighter future.

We have established the following to enable young people to make our foster homes better:

- Set up a young people's group 'Fostering is Us' which meets 3-4 times a year with the Registered Manager to enable young people to directly suggest improvements.
- Be involved in training/fostering panel about what it is like to be fostered and annually reviewing our Children's Guide and children's complaints procedure.
- Ensuring young people work with the social work team, planning social events throughout the year including our young people's annual achievement event.



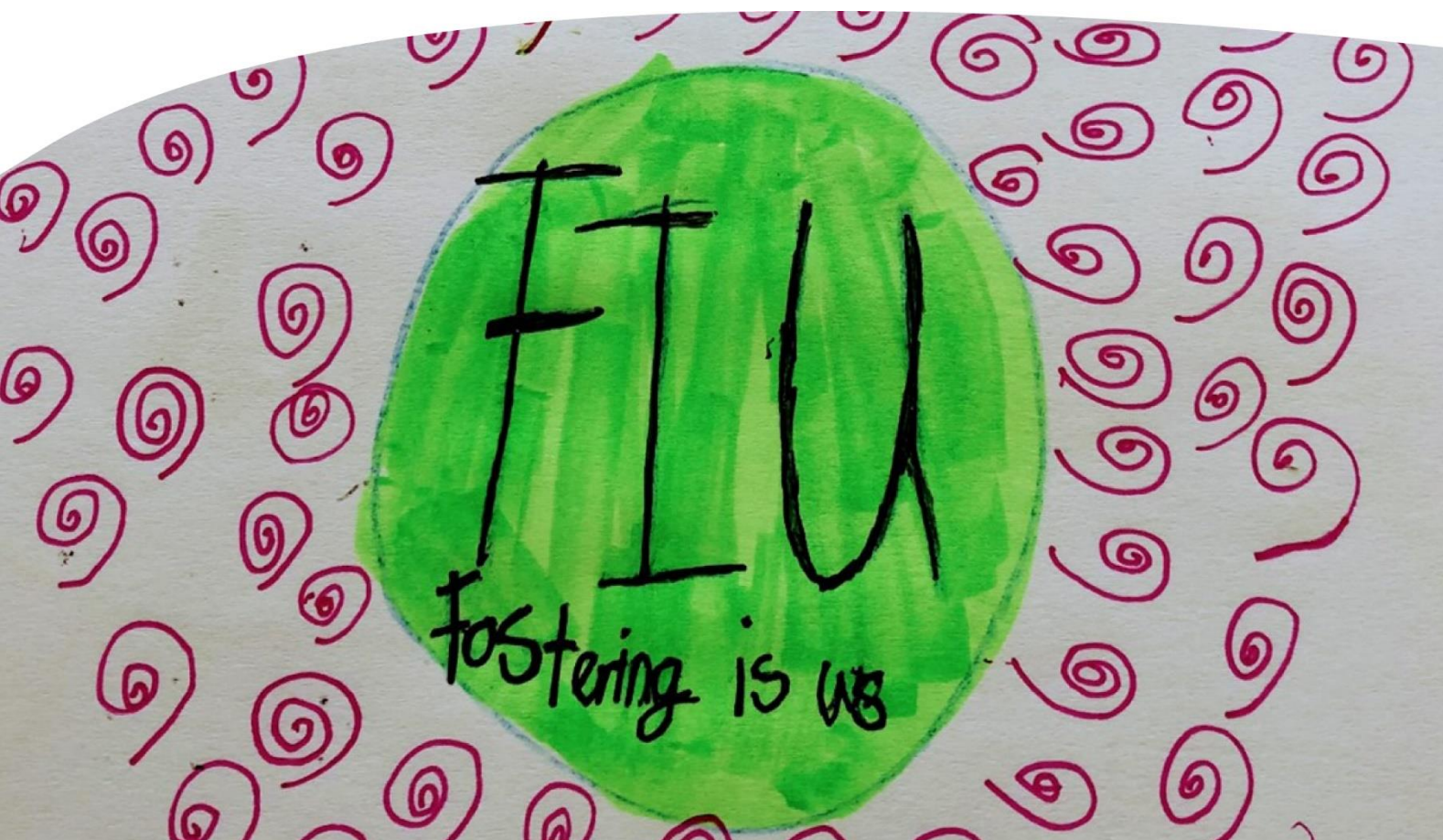
What happens if I am unhappy with my foster home?

Your foster carer is there to make you feel safe and happy. They will help you to settle in and show you around the foster home. They will also introduce you to other people who may live with you, for example their sons and daughters.

We all hope you will like where you live, but we know that sometimes it can be difficult getting on with people you do not know. It can be a very strange situation and arguments can happen. If you are unhappy at any time please talk to your foster carer, or you can ask to speak to their supervising social worker or your social worker. We will all try and help sort out any problems.

How do I make a complaint?

If you are still unhappy or feel you have been treated unfairly it is important that you tell Fostering2Inspire, so we have an opportunity to put it right for you. To make a complaint you can contact Fostering2Inspire – the telephone number and email address are at the back of this booklet. It may be that you think Fostering2Inspire have done something wrong. If this is the case, please contact Ofsted. Their contact details are also in this booklet. Your social worker or foster carer will be able to help you.



Your foster family

There will be lots of opportunities to try fun activities and go to events with other children and young people. It would be great if you could tell your foster carers if you would like to do an activity like swimming, the cinema or visit a special place like a castle or museum.









Your foster carer may take you on holiday or for weekends away. You will have an opportunity to say what you would like to do, along with your foster carer and supervising social worker.

During your stay with your foster carer, you will also get the chance to meet other carers and their families. Hopefully you will enjoy spending time with these people as you will get to do fun activities with them.

When you arrived at your foster home, we hope you met your foster carer's supervising social worker (who works for Fostering2Inspire). They will often visit your carer to make sure things are going well for both you and your foster family. The welcome pack has been picked by our young people and includes:

- This booklet
- Toiletries
- Stationery
- Fidget toy

Important and Useful Contact Details

	Name	Contact details:
Your foster carer(s)		 
Your social worker		 
Your independent reviewing officer'		 
Your foster carers' social worker		 

Office 26 and 27 – The Rear Walled Garden
The Estate Office
Nostell
Wakefield
WF4 1AB

01924 792184
enquiries@fostering2inspire.co.uk
www.fosteringtoinspire.co.uk

Childline:

Help and support
www.childline.org.uk
Telephone: 0800 1111

Coram Voice:

Children's Rights and Advocacy for looked after children
www.coramvoice.org.uk
Telephone: 0808 800 5792

Ofsted:

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

www.ofsted.gov.uk

General Enquiries: 0300 123 1231
Concerns: 0300 123 4666

