

What is Parent and Child Fostering?

You could help a parent and his or her young child as a Parent and Child Foster Carer.

The role is one of support, advice and assessment, working as part of the Family Assessment Support Team (FAST) and the child's social worker. You could receive requests for placements for a mother and child, a father and child or both parents and their child.

This scheme involves giving practical and emotional support to families.

Parent and Child Carers need to:

Have good communication skills, patience, understanding and a sense of humour!

Be able to have at least one parent and child to live with them in their home

Support and assess vulnerable parents and help them learn how to look after their child safely

Attend meetings and contribute to the FAST social work assessments by keeping detailed records

Work closely with other professionals

What do we offer?

High quality training and professional development opportunities

Competitive fees – £375 per week in addition to a 16+ fostering allowance for the parent in placement and the appropriate rate for the child. This is paid throughout the year. A bonus payment is also available

Six weeks' of paid holiday at the above rate

Regular support, an out of hours phone-line, and visits from FAST.

Opportunities to meet and share experiences with other carers and develop your skills

What next?

Phone our Fostering Team on 0800 587 9900, or visit www.fosteradoptsomerset.org.uk to make an enquiry, or find out about our next information event.



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What next?

To find out more, please phone our friendly Fostering Team on

0800 587 9900

or visit

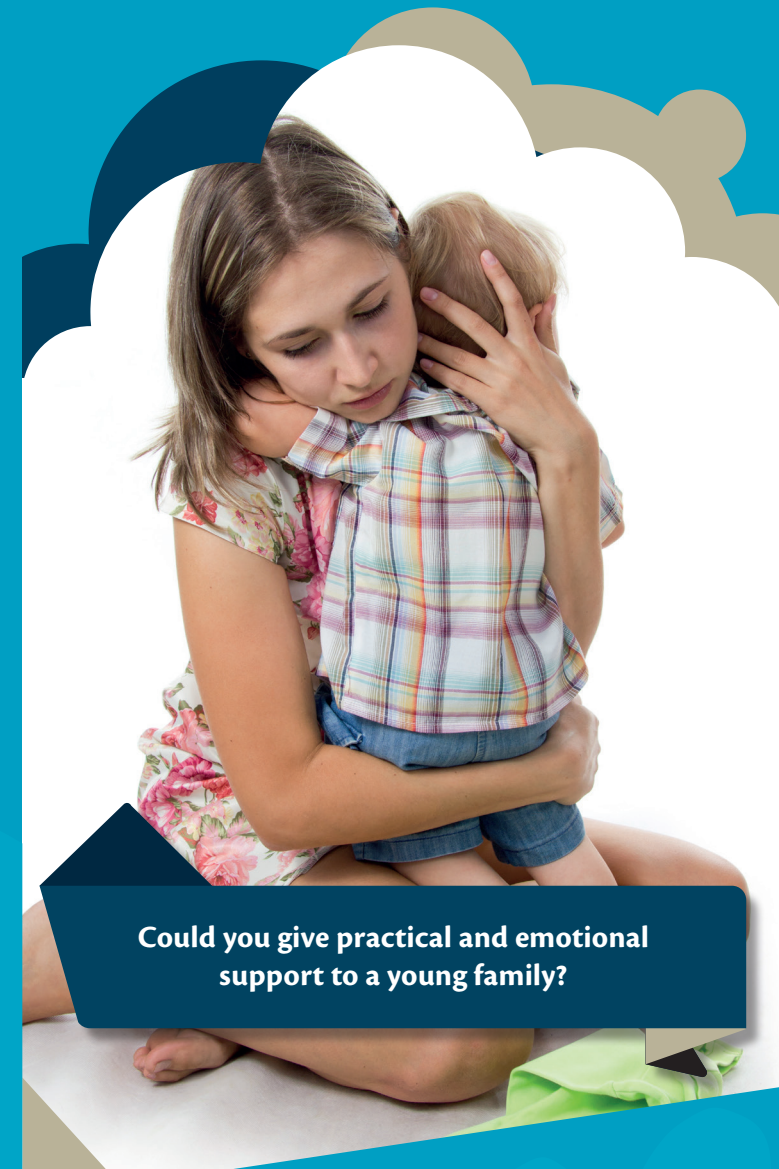
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Specialist fostering
for parent
and child



Could you give practical and emotional support to a young family?

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What does Parent and Child Fostering involve?

Everyone is different, and the same goes for every parent and child you work with. However the sorts of situations you may have to support will involve:

Giving support and advice to parents so they can provide safe care

Record their observations of the parent with their child

Guiding parents to help them improve their parenting skills

Being prepared to provide detailed daily recordings that could be used in court

Foster carers also occasionally help with day and respite care and community assessments



What do our carers say?

"When the social workers told me about the Parent and Child Scheme I thought I could actually do some fostering where I am helping more than one person at a time, you are actually helping a family and I know the child in that situation is safe.

"For me, the best bits are when you see the family progress and do really well, and become confident and good enough parents"

"You need to be friendly and approachable and have a great sense of humour!"

"When a parent first arrives in your home they can be very nervous. You need to be able to put them at ease at the same time as setting down clear boundaries"

"At times you need to be able to say things as they are, so the parent knows what they need to change"

"Of course sometimes things don't work out well and if the child comes into care while the parent goes home this can be very upsetting. You have to hold on to the fact that you believe it was the right decision"



A film of one of our FAST carers can be viewed on our website.

How do I become a Parent and Child Foster Carer?

People who want to be Parent and Child Foster Carers go through the same assessment and approval process as other foster carers. This process of assessment and training takes about 6 months to complete.



How to find out more

If you are interested in the Parent and Child Scheme, please phone our friendly team for a confidential chat on

0800 587 9900

or visit

www.fosteradoptsomerset.org.uk

for more information and to enquire.

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