

# Can I foster a child?

The best part of being a foster carer is knowing that you are making a positive difference to a child or young person's life, helping them to build a better life for themselves, by providing care and support at a time when they need it most.

Being a foster carer is no easy task; children can be distressed, demanding or despondent. Children need care for many reasons and for different lengths of time.

People who foster in Worcestershire are from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds. We are looking for people who are:

- Over 21 years of age
- Married, single or in a partnership including same sex relationships
- Of any race or ethnic origin
- In or out of work
- Practising any religion, or not
- Living in their own home or rented accommodation
- Disabled or not

Fostering is a shared experience, it is vital that all your family are happy and willing to share their home with a fostered child or children.

## What is expected of you as a foster carer?

If you are approved as a foster carer for Worcestershire you would have to be able to provide the following:

- Time and space, each fostered child must have their own bedroom (young fostered brothers and sisters can sometimes share a bedroom).
- Commitment and patience.
- A loving and caring home.



*“Go for it, if you have the love to give. There is so much fun along the way. You wouldn't want to miss out on the experience”.*

- Plenty of care and attention.
- A safe, comfortable home.
- The ability to work positively with the child's birth parents and family.
- The ability to work as part of a team with other carers and social workers within Worcestershire County Council.
- The ability to keep information confidential.
- Ability to keep records.
- Attend a number of training courses provided.
- Confidence to attend and participate in children's meetings.
- Be available at all times of the day to look after the children, for instance before and after school, during the day if a child is not able to attend school because of illness or other reasons, and during school holidays.

helping you, help them.