

Last Words of Advice

.... From the child of a foster carer:

'Give Fostering a Try – We Are!'



.... From children and young people who are looked after in fostering families:

'it helps children'
Luke (8)

'Be fair and treat them as a vulnerable child should be because you don't always know what they may have been through in life'
Mikey (16)

Start with one kid and see if you like it. Treat them nice. Treat them like your own kids but don't spoil them'

Danielle (12) and Liam (10)



'When the child first comes be as nice as possible and make them feel safe and secure. Also, listen to the children who you are looking after and treat them like your own child.

Kieron (13)

PS. And it also helps if you give them lots of extra pocket money, games, DVDs and spoil them rotten. LOL'

'You have to be kind and like children, you have to remember that the children who come to you will be sad and frightened and you have to cheer them up. Don't be nasty. You have to help them. And don't get a house with one bedroom!'

Tiegan (10) and Morgan (9)

.... From foster carers:

'For anyone who feels like they would like to foster, I'd say that if they are up to the challenge, have a good solid relationship with their partner, loads of patience, a willingness to learn new things, have loads of time for the young people and will listen and try to understand their problems and give them all the support they need even when it all gets too much of a strain, then go for it! It's so much of a good experience and fulfilling when you know that you've helped a young person to make a go of their life when the alternative of staying with their parents would have lessened their life experiences and chances even if it's only for a short time with that young person or family.'

Carol and James

It isn't all about taking care of a child, quite a few meetings to attend and liaising with various professionals. [on the assessment process ...] These processes go into every part of your life. Sometimes the things you have gone through in your life often help because it opens your eyes to what the children are going through. Tell your social worker everything and let her help you through the whole process, not as scary as it seems but the end result is so rewarding.

Susanne

I would say to anyone thinking about fostering to definitely give it a go, you will not be on your own, you will be part of a team of people who are always on hand to give guidance and support. It isn't an easy job, but the rewards are priceless.

Yvonne



'Having other children in your family life can be rewarding and fulfilling. From submitting the application to becoming a registered foster carer seemed to take forever - but when actually being placed with children the time just flies in.'

Anne and Alistair

'I would say that if you are at all interested in childcare and you have the time and patience to give to a child then this is the most worthwhile thing you can do. I would say, in honesty, that it is not an easy job as the children can come to you with so many issues that they need support with however if you can support the child through the difficult times then the rewards for both the child and you will be immense. I would say that it is important to remember that all children are different and when children are placed with you then they should never be compared to other children you either have or have had. All children should be listened to and respected and it is always important to remember they do have another family and it is part of their identity.'

Margaret

'If I was talking to us as we were twelve months ago, what would I say?

Hmmmmmm ...

This is not going to be an easy ride. You need to be sure in what you're doing, both for yourselves and for the children that will come into your care. If it was going to be too easy, then you won't know enough about yourselves or how you will cope. Be ready to bare you soul – the next 12 months will be searching! Listen to the professionals – they know what they're talking about; If you have doubts, air them; If you need to talk to someone else, just ask for contacts.

Would we do it again? Most certainly, definitely – YES!

John and Anne (foster carers who have just completed the assessment process)

It has to be a whole family decision. It has to be thought through and taken very seriously as these children's lives depend on your input to their lives. It is not plain sailing at all and is a very challenging vocation in many different ways but also very rewarding. You have to be a very patient understanding person to do this type of work and to me personally it is so much more than just a job. It is a 24/7 commitment to these children and this is not always an easy task but again I have to stress it is very rewarding. Myself and my family love being carers and would not change it.

We would say go for it!!!!

Sharon and Grant

