

Central
Bedfordshire

great
prospects



The Family Link Scheme

A care resource in Central Bedfordshire for children
with disabilities and their families

A great place to live and work.

Find us online



www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/fostering

We need Family Link carers to offer short breaks to children with disabilities in Central Bedfordshire.

Do you have a spare room and the time to offer, from an overnight visit to a few days a month? Then you could be just what we're looking for.

What does a Family Link carer do?

As a Family Link short break carer, you would help children to have fun, try new activities, gain independence and make new friends. You would provide care for one or more children who have a learning, physical or multiple disabilities.

What is the time commitment?

This could be a few hours in a day, an overnight stay or a weekend each month and would be for a specific child, who will be matched to you. We ask that you have a spare room so that you can provide the overnight care.

How do I become a Family Link carer?

Family Link short break carers are recruited, trained and approved in a similar way to Foster Carers. We would provide you with an allowance to cover expenses for the child and you would receive regular support, guidance and training through your Family Link Social Worker.



If you are approved, a careful matching process takes place, which takes into consideration the individual needs of the child and their family, and your abilities and capabilities.

Who are the children?

Children are referred to the scheme by the Social Worker allocated to the child from the Children with Disabilities Team. For the child, it will be an opportunity to make new friends, enjoy new experiences and develop some independence. The child's family can have a much needed break, whilst the child enjoys the company and interaction with another family.

What are we looking for?

We need people who:

- Are committed, caring and willing to learn and develop – you will be required to attend Skills to Foster training as part of the assessment
- Are flexible and willing to work directly with families
- Have a good sense of humour and plenty of resilience
- Have experience of children and children with disabilities
- Are from a variety of backgrounds and able to take children from a variety of backgrounds

You can be single, living with a partner or married. You can have your own children and you don't have to own your own house, but you do need the space and you must have a spare room to allow overnight care. You also need to be able to drive.

The rewards

- You will be making a real difference to the lives of the children and the families
- You'll be enriching your own family life
- You will develop your own skills and experiences

The support

- You will have regular supervision and support from your Family Link Social Worker
- You'll have access to 24 hour support and advice
- You will be able to access and attend training courses to develop your skills
- We'll provide an allowance to cover your expenses
- You'll be part of a professional team of support for specific families in need; attending meetings, receiving information and being involved in the care package for the child or children.



Does this sound like something you could do?

If you want to know more, we're really keen to hear from you. You can contact the Fostering Team, who will take some details from you, ask you about your experience and, as Family Link is assessed in the same way as fostering, send you a fostering pack. You'll then be contacted to arrange a visit in your own home.

Don't wait, call us today and become a Family Link carer.

0300 300 8181

fostering@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/fostering

Family Link fee based scheme

Some of our carers have progressed to the Family Link Fee based scheme. Carers within this scheme are self employed and receive a weekly fee of £385. They can be matched for up to 7 children with disabilities on a rolling rota basis. Carers within this service will have had specialist experience of caring for children with additional needs and would need to be proactive and committed to their training and development. As with our part-time Family Link carers, fee based carers would have regular support and supervision, must be able to drive and have transport, and must have a spare room.



Central Bedfordshire in contact

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