

How do I become a parent and child foster carer?

If you are new to fostering you will need to be assessed as a prospective foster carer. We'll ask you to attend some training and we will carry out checks including references from people who know you and your family well.

If you are already a foster carer for Central Bedfordshire Council, we will need to update your approval so that you can be approved as a parent and child foster carer. We'll ask that you attend some additional training and we will write an addendum report to be presented to the Fostering and Permanence Panel. They will review the information and if they feel you have the skills and knowledge to become a parent and child foster carer, recommend your approval as a parent and child foster carer to the Agency Decision Maker.

Do I get paid as a parent and child foster carer?

Foster carers who are part of the parent and child fostering scheme will receive a foster carers tier 3 payment of £550 per week. This is paid for the time that the parent and their child lives with you and an additional allowance for the child is also provided (the fee and allowance are only paid when you have a parent and child placed with you). Once they have left your care you can consider other types of fostering, the foster carers tier payment will not remain at tier 3 but you will receive either the tier 1 (£100) or tier 2 (£175) per week that a child is placed with you. If you decide to care for a parent and child, the tier will revert to tier 3 for the time of that placement.



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Parent and child fostering

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Parent and child fostering

Being a new parent can be an exciting but overwhelming time, especially if you are a young parent or have other things happening in your life which means you need extra help.

The parent and child fostering scheme is a great opportunity to nurture young parents with the skills, support and confidence they need to help them continue to care for their babies or small children.

We need people with experience or knowledge of good parenting to guide young parents on how to support and parent their children in a positive way.

With extensive training and support from us you will be a key person in the lives of young parents to help them build practical parenting skills and learn appropriate boundaries.

The parent and child fostering scheme is a great opportunity to nurture young parents



What do I need to be a parent and child carer?

We are looking for people or families who have:

- A spare bedroom and space in their home for a young parent and their child (including sharing your kitchen and other living spaces)
- One carer at home full time (e.g. the person who will be the main carer is not out of the home for work or other regular commitments)
- Skills or knowledge of good parenting and the current expectations for good care of young children
- The ability and patience to share their experience with parents and families
- The ability to safeguard and promote the welfare of the parent and their child including any children who live in or visit your home
- The ability to share their observations with the teams working with the parent and child to inform decision making about future support services or interventions that may be required for the parent and child in their care.

What is the role of a parent and child carer?

Being a parent and child foster carer can be challenging but is also very rewarding, seeing a young person develop and grow into a great parent can be something amazing.

You will need to be able to work with a parent, who will live in your home, be able to keep professional boundaries whilst also being warm, welcoming and supportive.

It's also important that you have the ability to 'stand back' and encourage parents to meet their children's day to day care, stimulation, affection and basic needs.

As a parent and child foster carer you will:

- Have a parent and their child live in your home for up to a 12-week period (this can be longer if required)
- Work intensively with one family at a time. The role of a parent and child foster carer can be quite demanding and special care is needed to make sure you are able to supervise the parent and child in your care. When you have a parent and child living with you we will not place other children with you, but you can consider other types of fostering in between your parent and child placements
- Guide, enable and support young parents to develop skills in caring for their child as independently as possible
- Care for the child's basic needs and safety if a parent fails to continue with their responsibilities
- Have the ability to make calm and objective judgements about what is safe care and what is not, whilst being assertive in managing any parenting that may be of risk to the child
- Keep clear, precise, balanced and detailed records and communicate observations to the Corporate Parenting Service (ensuring that your records are factual and not of opinion)
- Be part of the assessment of the parent and child in your care by discussing the child's needs and parents' abilities to meet them. This may include your records being used to provide additional evidence in court
- Report any worries or concerns you might have to the parent and child's social worker
- Support parent(s) to move onto independence (where appropriate) to make a successful transition
- Be an advocate for the parent or child to help them share their thoughts and feelings
- Have strong relationship building and communication skills and be able to work with parents and their families who may be anxious, distressed or potentially resistant
- Be able to manage your own and your families' feelings and emotions to treat parents in a non-judgemental way, whilst giving consideration to others' cultures and values
- Work closely with the parents and child's social worker, the fostering team and other teams and agencies to meet the roles and expectations of a parent and child foster carer.
- Be proactive in attending additional training and support groups.