

What makes a good foster carer?

- know the child's rights
- have empathy
- have respect and understanding for the child's birth family
- be a good match to the child
- be loving
- have a sense of humour
- have patience and time
- be caring and kind
- be consistent
- listen
- multi agency working
- be non-judgemental
- be nurturing
- encourage activities with or without the carer
- give mental support and emotional wellbeing
- accept the young person for who they are
- give support for the siblings
- be resilient
- balance between own family and foster children
- be helpful
- show an interest in the CYP
- have enough space in the house
- encourage them to keep doing their hobbies, even after they move placements
- talking and communicating well with foster and own children
- be supportive and flexible
- try to see things from the YP's point of view
- be aware and pick up on behaviours
- be a shoulder to cry on
- be knowledgeable on attachment disorders and behaviour problems
- don't pressure the child to hug you, let them come to you
- spend time getting to know the YP and find out what support they need
- be forgiving

What makes a poor foster carer/experience?

- isolating a child
- treating the foster child different to own children
- being a foster carer just for the money
- having no trust
- when communication breaks down
- when the carer gives up on the child
- carer losing temper with child/physical abuse
- unsuitable housing/conditions
- foster carer buying separate food for the child and the rest of the family.
- making the foster child feel different
- being dismissive of their concerns
- labelling the YP
- making a big deal over little things