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When you step up for children,
we step up for you.

A guide to fostering

with Pilgrims Corner Fostering for new parents

A warm welcome

Fostering is one of the most important and rewarding things you can do. By opening your home, you can give a child safety, stability and the chance to thrive.

At Pilgrims Corner Fostering Services, we believe foster parents are the heart of everything we do.

Our role is simple: To stand beside you, support you properly, and help you make a real difference to children's lives.

This guide is for people who are new to fostering and want clear, honest answers about what fostering involves, what support you will receive, and whether this journey could be right for you.

Our vision

Our vision is to be a fostering agency where every foster parent feels genuinely valued, supported and empowered.

We aim to build strong partnerships with our foster parents, based on trust, transparency and respect. We listen to your experiences, involve you in decisions, and shape our practice around what parents tell us they need.

Together, we help children feel safe, valued and hopeful about their future.

“Our role is simple: To stand beside you, support you properly, and help you make a real difference to children's lives...”

Why foster?

Children come into care for many reasons, often through no fault of their own. They may have experienced loss, trauma or instability and need a safe family environment where they can begin to heal.

Foster parents provide:

- Safety and stability
- Care, encouragement and boundaries
- Everyday family life
- Belief in a child's potential

Fostering can be challenging, but it is also deeply meaningful. Many parents tell us it is the most important thing they have ever done.

Who can foster?

You do not need to be 'perfect' to foster. We welcome applications from people who:

- Are over 21
- Have a spare bedroom
- Have time, patience and empathy
- Can offer a stable home

You can foster if you are:

- Single, married or in a relationship
- Working or not working
- A homeowner or tenant
- From any cultural or religious background

What matters most is your ability to care, listen and provide a safe home.

What support will I receive?

Strong, reliable support is one of the most important factors in successful fostering. We are committed to ensuring you are never left to cope alone.



You will receive:

- A named Supervising Social Worker who knows you and your family
- Regular supervision and home visits
- Practical advice and emotional support
- 24/7 out-of-hours support from experienced professionals
- Advocacy with schools, health services and local authorities

We check in with you regularly, not just when things are difficult.

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Training & development

We provide high-quality, practical training to help you feel confident and prepared.

This includes:

- Pre-approval training
- Safeguarding and safer caring
- Trauma-informed and therapeutic parenting
- Managing behavior and understanding children's experiences

Training is flexible and ongoing. As your experience grows, there are opportunities to:

- Specialise in particular types of placements
- Mentor new foster parents
- Contribute to training or panels

We invest in you because skilled, confident foster parents make the biggest difference to children.

Looking after your wellbeing

Fostering can be demanding. Your wellbeing matters to us. We support you by offering:

- Access to planned and emergency respite
- Emotional and therapeutic support when needed
- Peer support and foster parents networks
- A culture where asking for help is seen as a strength

We work with you to manage challenges early, before they become overwhelming.



Matching children carefully

Good matching is essential for everyone's wellbeing.

We are committed to:

- Being honest and clear about children's needs
- Matching placements based on compatibility, not pressure
- Involving you fully in placement decisions
- Supporting gradual introductions wherever possible

You will never be expected to accept a placement that is not right for you or your family.

Financial support

Fostering is not about money, but foster parents should not be financially disadvantaged.

We offer:

- An attractive starting fee of £550 per week, rising for more complex children and care requirements
- Respite payments and monies for unused respite you're entitled to
- Taking your foster child on holiday with you? We'll contribute financially so that they can enjoy the adventure with you.
- Allowances that cover the full cost of caring for a child and professional fees that reflect the responsibility of the role
- Clear information about entitlements and the prompt reimbursement of expenses
- We are transparent about finances and available to answer questions at any time.

A culture of respect & appreciation

We believe foster parents should be treated as key professionals in the team around the child.

You can expect:

- Respect for your experience and knowledge
- Clear, honest communication
- Recognition of your achievements
- Opportunities to have your voice heard and shape our service

We celebrate successes and recognise the commitment foster parents show every day.

Our foster parent wellbeing promise

When you foster with Pilgrims Corner, you can expect that:

- You will be valued and respected
- You will receive responsive support, including out of hours
- Your voice will be listened to
- Your emotional wellbeing will be taken seriously
- You will be supported to grow and develop
- Your time and energy will be respected
- Communication will be open and honest
- Your contribution will be recognised and celebrated

You care for children. We care for you.

Taking the next step

If you are thinking about fostering, the first step is simply a conversation. The process is as follows and typically takes 6 months to approval:

1. Initial conversation
2. Application and home visits
3. Assessment for suitability
4. Initial training
5. Panel review
6. Approval granted & placement

There is no obligation and no pressure. We are happy to talk through your questions, your circumstances and whether fostering could be right for you.

By fostering, you could change a child's life – and we will support you every step of the way.

Mythbusters

for new foster parents

1. Myth: You have to be married to foster

Reality: You can foster if you're single, married, in a civil partnership, or living with a partner. What matters is your ability to provide stable, nurturing care, not your marital status.

2. Myth: You can't work and foster

Reality: Many foster carers work part-time or flexibly. Some fostering arrangements allow carers to work alongside fostering, especially with school-age children. Each situation is assessed individually.

3. Myth: You're too old to foster

Reality: There is no upper age limit. Life experience, patience and stability are often seen as strengths. As long as you're healthy and able to meet a child's needs, age is not a barrier.

4. Myth: You need to own your own home

Reality: You can foster if you rent or own your home. The key requirement is that you have suitable space, including a spare bedroom for a child.

5. Myth: You must already have parenting experience

Reality: You don't need to have children or previous parenting experience. Full training and ongoing support are provided, and many carers learn as they go with strong professional guidance.

6. Myth: You can't foster if you already have children

Reality: You can foster alongside your own children. In fact, many fostering households include birth children, and this can provide positive role models and family experiences when carefully matched.



7. Myth: Foster children are "too difficult"

Reality: Children come into care for many reasons, and each child is unique. With the right match, training and support, fostering can be rewarding, meaningful and life-changing for both carers and children.

8. Myth: You have to give up your independence

Reality: Foster carers are part of a professional team, but they are not micromanaged. You retain your independence while working collaboratively with social workers and other professionals.

9. Myth: You need to be wealthy to foster

Reality: Foster carers receive financial allowances to cover the cost of caring for a child. Fostering is about providing care, not personal income level.

10. Myth: You'll be left to cope on your own

Reality: Foster carers receive training, supervision, 24/7 support, peer groups and professional guidance. You are never expected to manage alone.

Fostering isn't about being perfect — it's about being patient, caring, and willing to make a difference.