



Disability placements

Fostering People provide a range of disability placements for children with autism, learning difficulties, physical disabilities and medical conditions.

There is a growing need for foster carers to look after disabled children and our disability service has been extended to meet the increasing demand local authorities across the UK face in finding appropriate, safe foster placements for disabled children.

Here at Fostering People we offer a range of placements to disabled children and these include:

- Long term fostering placements
- Short term fostering placements
- Respite fostering placements
- Short break schemes
- Support to disabled young people through transition to adulthood.

Support to you

Becoming a foster carer for a disabled child can seem quite daunting, but don't worry, here at Fostering People you're supported by a specialist disability social worker who has significant experience of working with disabled children. We will provide training, advice and specialist support groups to ensure that every disabled child is able to achieve to their fullest potential.

Could I foster a disabled child?

If you have patience, understanding, a good sense of humour, can be extra vigilant with safety, be open-minded, good at communicating, able to advocate and to learn and be committed to meeting disabled children's needs, then you have the skills we are looking for.

"One of the challenges we find when caring for children with disabilities is keeping children with complex needs safe. We are currently caring for a girl who is diagnosed with epilepsy and requires emergency medication to be administered. She is also fed through a gastronomy tube and is paralyzed on one side of her body and requires the use of a wheelchair. Whilst it is a challenge to ensure all of her needs are met, it is equally rewarding to know that through training and support we have been able to keep her safe over the last 5 years. We have supported her through difficult times relating to her health, but have also been able to give her opportunities to have fun and play in a safe environment". Foster Carer.

"Don't underestimate yourself. Be willing to give disabled children a chance - you will learn a lot from it and will reap the rewards!"



Devina - Fostering People Disability Social Worker

I have been a qualified social worker since 2008. I have substantial experience working with children and young people with disabilities offering direct support through short break activities as well residential and statutory social work.

When working for Disabled Children's Service I gained a wealth of knowledge and experience about different disabilities such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy, ADHD and Global Development Delay to name a few. I was able to support children with PEG feeds, epilepsy and deliver medication should a child require. I've been supported by health professionals and school staff to understand children's needs and how these can be met effectively. All children have different communication styles I have some experience using sign language called Makaton to communicate to children as well as using picture symbols and story boards to communicate.

I used these communication styles when gaining a child's wishes and feelings during home visits and if this form of communication was not suitable then observations also helped to provide a child voice.



"We provide care to children with varying disabilities however we find it most challenging caring for children who are non-verbal and communicate only through gestures and facial expressions. It can be challenging trying to meet their needs in the early stages when you are unsure what it is they want, however what we find most rewarding is once you get to know these children you learn more about the way they communicate and you therefore learn to understand what they want or need e.g. one of our young people moves her tongue in a particular way to tell us she is hungry."

If you would like more information on becoming a foster carer with Fostering People contact us on:

0800 077 8159
www.fosteringpeople.co.uk

