

Key resources in foster care:

Introducing foster care



If you are thinking about fostering for the first time you probably have lots of questions about what it's actually like to foster, and how you will be supported as a foster carer. This selection of current materials on fostering will help you find the information you need to make an informed decision. You can ask at your local public library for any of the titles listed and if they do not hold the publication themselves they may be able to acquire it for you by inter-library loan.

Fostering Network resources

All about fostering edited by Henrietta Bond

The Fostering Network, 2004, ISBN 1897869444, £10.00

A very popular introductory book on fostering, answering many of the questions a prospective carer may have. It includes information on the different types of fostering, the steps you need to take to become a foster carer and how to cope with some of the challenges fostering presents, as well as providing first hand opinions from carers and fostered children.

Available to purchase from the Fostering Network <http://www.fostering.net/resources/>

Books

Delivering foster care by John Triseliotis

British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF), 2000, ISBN 1873868804

The result of a Scottish study but covering themes relating to all four nations of the UK, this book gives a good grounding for those embarking on a career in fostering. Themes include recruitment and retention, how fostering affects the sons and daughters of foster carers, and support for carers.

Available to purchase at <http://www.baaf.org.uk/>

Fostering a child: a guide for people interested in fostering by Henrietta Bond

British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF), 2004, ISBN 190369924X

This book covers the different types of foster care and the training, support and remuneration foster carers can receive. It advises on the types of fostering providers available and gives listings (current as at June 2004).

Available to purchase at <http://www.baaf.org.uk/>

Fostering success: an exploration of the research literature in foster care by Kate Wilson

Social Care Institute for Excellence, 2004, ISBN 190481204X

This guide identifies the impact or outcomes of foster care on children and young people in the care system. It covers some of the major issues affecting foster carers and provides references to further sources of information.

Available free at <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/details.asp?pubID=16>.

Fostering: what it is and what it means: a guide for children and young people by Shaila Shah
British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF), 2003, ISBN 1903699509
An A5 booklet aimed at children and young people moving into foster care. A useful book for prospective carers too seeing how fostering impacts a child in care.
Available to purchase at <http://www.baaf.org.uk/>

Looking after children: good parenting, good outcomes by Fergus Smith
Children Act Enterprises, 2000, ISBN 1899986758
This text is aimed at fostering services and foster carers. It describes the looked-after child system, the various forms, plans and definitions of terms such as care order and placement plan. It is presented as a handy pocket book and is relevant to carers in England and Wales.
Available to purchase at <http://www.ggg18.dial.pipex.com/>

What the standards say about...fostering by Meral Mehmet
Russell House Publishing, 2005, ISBN 1903855470
A useful guide covering both the UK National Standards for Foster Care and National Minimum Standards for Foster Care. It identifies where responsibilities lie in the field foster care and where standards can be found.
Available to purchase at <http://www.russellhouse.co.uk/>

Journals/magazines

Foster Care magazine
The Fostering Network, ISSN 1477 0199
A magazine dedicated to fostering. It features articles, letters, news and relates real life experiences of foster carers and young people in foster care. It is published four times a year and is available as part of Fostering Network membership (£42 for an annual individual membership – contact membership@fostering.net for details) or separately at a cost of £12 for a year's subscription. Some of the feature articles are also available on our website at <http://www.fostering.net/resources/>. For further details contact publications@fostering.net or 020 7620 6400.

Many fostering services produce their own newsletters for carers. You can locate services in your area using the fostering service locator on the Fostering Network's website at <http://www.fostering.net/providers/>

Organisations

The Fostering Network <http://www.fostering.net/>
The Fostering Network is the leading UK charity for anyone with an interest in fostering. It has a membership of over 50,000 foster carers, almost all local authorities and health and social services trusts in the UK, as well as independent fostering providers and local foster care associations. The Fostering Network website provides information on all aspects of foster care, including a new site dedicated to people thinking of becoming foster carers: <http://www.fostercarefortnight.co.uk/>. A range of foster care materials is published including *Signposts*, a series of booklets dealing with practical issues such as health, education and insurance. It also publishes *Family Finder*, a newsletter containing details of children looking for foster families, which is mailed every six weeks to Fostering Network members in England and Wales. To contact the Fostering Network, email info@fostering.net or telephone 020 7620 6400.

British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) <http://www.baaf.org.uk/>

BAAF is a UK charity focusing on children separated from their birth families. It publishes a range of materials on fostering and produces a UK wide monthly newsletter called *Be my parent* which gives details of children and young people looking for new adoptive or long term fostering placements. The website provides information on fostering.

Office for Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Ofsted came into existence on 1 April 2007. It has taken over the role of inspecting fostering providers from CSCI. Users can sign up for a free electronic newsletter about the work of Ofsted on its website.

Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSIW)

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/cssiwsuite/cssiw/>

CSSIW is part of the Welsh Assembly Government and inspects and registers fostering under the Care Standards Act.

Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care <http://www.carecommission.com/>

The Care Commission in Scotland was set up in April 2002 to regulate care services in Scotland.

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