



Future Families for Children

Your journey from Fostering to Adoption



**Make a
difference to a
child's life!**

Future Families for Children is a new service, being launched by Caritas Care, because we know that there are many children in care who desperately need to belong to and be part of a permanent family but for whom that remains just a dream. This is a different way of finding loving, secure, permanent families for very vulnerable children of primary school age. The carers are approved as both foster carers and adopters, and are given preparation and training to ensure they are ready for this exciting challenge.

Future Families for Children

We believe strongly that each and every child deserves to be nurtured and loved, given safe boundaries and the opportunity to develop to their full potential, whatever that may be.

There are thousands of children across the UK, many living in the North West, who are waiting for that special family to which they can belong.

Many of these children are waiting because they are older (i.e. over 4 years), they need a family where they can live with their brother or sister, from minority ethnic communities or have special needs, either physical or emotional.

Many of the children will have had several losses in their early life and been affected by neglect or abuse, so they may express their sadness and distress in ways which can be challenging for their carers.

This new route to adoption is dedicated to finding families for these young children, by providing robust and effective support during the fostering phase, to both the child and the carer. This will offer time to develop a strong, secure relationship and hopefully lead to them becoming an adoptive family in which the child feels secure, valued and loved.

What support will there be?

Caritas Care is totally committed to providing support which is tailor made for the child and also for the carer (and in some cases the carer's family too). Our belief is that if the child and their carer are provided with good quality, sensitive support the child will be helped to build a strong attachment to their carer. Additionally, the carer will have the support to work out the best possible ways to parent that particular child in a positive way.

Our support will include:

- A social worker whom you will have the chance to get to know and trust.
- Preparation and training as both a foster carer and an adoptive parent so you feel as prepared as possible for this important role.
- Ongoing support groups and training opportunities.
- Access to support from a therapist and educational specialist.
- Financial support during the fostering stage.
- Post adoption support.

You can be a foster carer & adopter if you are:

- Over 21 years old.
- Single, married or living in a partnership, gay or straight.
- Living in rented accommodation or paying a mortgage.
- Of any ethnic/cultural background.
- A member of a faith group or have no faith.
- Have a spare bedroom in your home for a child.

There are certain specific criminal convictions which prevent people from becoming foster carers or adopters, but if you have a criminal conviction please discuss this with us, as it may not prevent you from becoming a carer.

If you are a smoker we would need to discuss this with you further, because of the risks to a child's health.

What are we looking for?

- Experience of child care – but not necessarily as a parent.
- Patience, warmth, emotional maturity, “stickability” – and a sense of humour.
- A gap of two years between this child and any other children in the household.
- Usually the child would be the youngest child in the household.
- An understanding that the children are likely to have had traumatic early experiences, losses, rejections and may show their sadness and anger in many different ways.
- A willingness to learn more about child development and positive ways of parenting children who have had negative experiences.
- A willingness to engage with the support provided for you and your child.

Next steps

If you would like to know more about how you can make a difference to a child's life, please contact us at:

T 0800 652 6955
(Freephone)

E info@caritascare.org.uk

You might also like to download our information packs about both our Adoption and Fostering Service.

Contact Caritas Care Today

0800 652 6955

www.caritascare.org.uk

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