

Could this be the year you change a child's life?

Fostering isn't just about opening your home, it's about opening your heart and giving a local child stability, support, and hope for the future. If you've ever thought, *"I want to do something meaningful this year"*, fostering could provide that step towards making a difference in your local community. You don't need to foster full-time, and you don't need to be perfect, just willing to care.

What do you need to foster?

- No previous experience required
- Aged 21 or over
- A spare room in your home
- No offences against children

We provide full training and ongoing support, including a dedicated Supervising Social worker to support you on your fostering journey, and weekly payments to support you financially.

Fostering doesn't have to be a full-time role either. There are many options to suit your lifestyle and commitments, as well as the needs of our children, from [occasional weekend care](#) to [long-term fostering](#), or even supporting a [parent and their young child](#).

Join us for an information session

If you'd like to know more, our free 'Cuppa with a Foster Carer' events provide a valuable opportunity to gain a realistic insight into the role, by chatting to local carers over coffee and a slice of cake (provided by us). You'll find a list of all the upcoming events online at www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk/events.

Stay connected

The Fostering in Somerset website is a great place to start if you're interested in fostering, now or in the future. From carer videos to payment information, you'll find lots of helpful information online at www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. Alternatively, call 0800 587 9900 and chat to our friendly team. You're not committing to anything by getting in touch to learn more.

Fostering could fit your life more than you think

Fostering is something many people assume they can only do later in life. What many do not realise is that fostering is a paid role, with flexible options to fit around your lifestyle and the time you can offer.

There are different types of fostering to suit different circumstances. For example, some carers choose to provide occasional care, such as one night a week, one weekend a month, or support during school holidays.

You do not need any previous experience to become a foster carer. Full training is provided, along with ongoing support and weekly payments to help support you financially. What matters most is having the right qualities and a genuine desire to care for a child who may have experienced trauma. You will need a spare room in your home and to be aged 21 or over, but there is no upper age limit.

Fostering in Somerset is currently looking for caring individuals, couples and families across the county to become paid foster carers, either full or part-time. If you have room in your home and your heart, you could make a real difference to a local child's life. There is no obligation when you get in touch to find out more, but one conversation really could help change a child's story.

Visit fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or call our friendly team on **0800 587 9900** to find out more.

Why staying close to home matters for children in foster care

When a child goes into foster care, it can be a time of major change and strong emotions. Staying close to familiar places and the community they know can make a real difference, offering reassurance when so much else feels new and uncertain. That is why finding local foster homes for local children matters.

Being cared for close to home helps children stay connected to their friends, schools and everyday surroundings. People who work with children in care understand how powerful this can be. Familiar details, such as recognising a place name or knowing a local park, can help a child feel less isolated and more secure.

Fostering is not about being perfect. It is about offering consistency, kindness and a safe, supportive home. Foster carers receive training, guidance and financial support, but above all they provide stability and care at a time when a child needs it most.

There is a particular need for more foster carers in this area, especially for older children and teenagers.

Anyone who has ever considered fostering is encouraged to contact Fostering in Somerset to find out more. An initial conversation comes with no commitment and could make a lasting difference to a local child's life and future. Visit fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or call **0800 587 9900** to find out more.