

Who Can Foster? You Can!

- Whether you are single or part of a couple;
- Whether you work at home outside of it or are unemployed, one person must be available to care for the foster child;
- Whether or not you are already a parent;
- Whether or not you own your own house;
- Regardless of your religious, ethnic or cultural background.



What is Fostering?

Fostering is caring for someone else's child within your home.

Children are placed with foster carers, within their own communities if possible, when their own parents are unable to care for them due to the parents' personal difficulties.

In other cases, children need to be protected where they may be at risk of neglect or abuse.

In the case of teenagers, their relationship with their parents may have broken down as a result of problem within the family.

Children need to be part of a family unit, to be cared for by adults who will try and understand them and keep them safe.

Foster caring can be short-term or long-term. It can be for weekends, a holiday, respite or day fostering (where a child returns to his or her own home in the evening). Children may need care for weeks or months and then return home. Other children may require long term care to 18 years.

Who are the children?

Children of all ages up to 18 years may require foster care. A number of children from the same family may need to be placed together in a foster home.

Children from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds also require foster care.

As a result of their past experiences and

separation from parents, some foster children develop behaviours or emotional problems that are challenging to deal with. All children need love, encouragement and security in a stable home to overcome their difficulties.



What Tusla child and family service supports are available?

Training – this prepares foster carer applicants for fostering.

Allowance – there is a reasonable weekly allowance to care for the child. This allowance does not affect Social Welfare payments and is not taxable income.

Guidance and Support – the foster family has a dedicated Social Worker to provide support and advice with fostering. The child also has a separate Social Worker who advocates on his or her behalf.

Fostering Support Group – this is organised by the Social Worker.