

Fostering Mythbuster **9** things you need to know



I'm too old or too young to foster

There is no legal maximum or minimum age for foster carers. If you can show that you have the experience, ability and dedication to make a difference to a child's life, then you are not too young or too old to foster.



I can't foster because I have children of my own

Different children have different needs. Some fostered children benefit hugely from the relationship they build with the children of foster carers and vice versa – for others, a household with no other children will suit them best. That's why we need a range of foster carers with different things to offer.



I need to be married to foster

There are foster carers from all walks of life – single, in couples – it's about having the skills and dedication to provide care and love for children and young people.



I can't foster because I have never been a parent

This doesn't necessarily mean you can't foster. If you can show that you'll be able to provide the care that fostered children need, then you'll be considered.



I can't foster because I am employed

Having a foster carer that combines fostering with other work will not be right for every child but for some it is absolutely possible.



It will take forever to get approval

It is important that proper checks are carried out before people are entrusted with the care of vulnerable children. But the process is quicker than you might think and the Government recently made some changes to make the process more efficient.



I need to own my home to foster

You can be a foster carer without owning your home, but you will have to have space and stability to offer. Your local fostering service will discuss this with you.



I can't afford to support a child financially

Foster carers who are looking after a child will receive an allowance to cover the cost of that care, which will vary according to the child's needs. In some cases you may be paid a fee. Your local fostering services will be able to provide further advice.



I can't foster because I'm LGBT or T

A person's sexual orientation or gender identity has no bearing on their ability to provide a loving home for a child or young person, and should never be a barrier to fostering.



Find out more

If you're interested in fostering call Fosterline on **0800 040 7675**

Email: enquiries@fosterline.info

Or you can visit: www.fosterline.info/thinking-of-fostering



Department for Education

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