

Support Systems

We value the work foster carers do and the contributions they make to young people's lives. We provide financial assistance and a support system to enable you to provide a good standard of care for the children you look after.

“ it's great to see a child being a child ”

Gerard foster parent

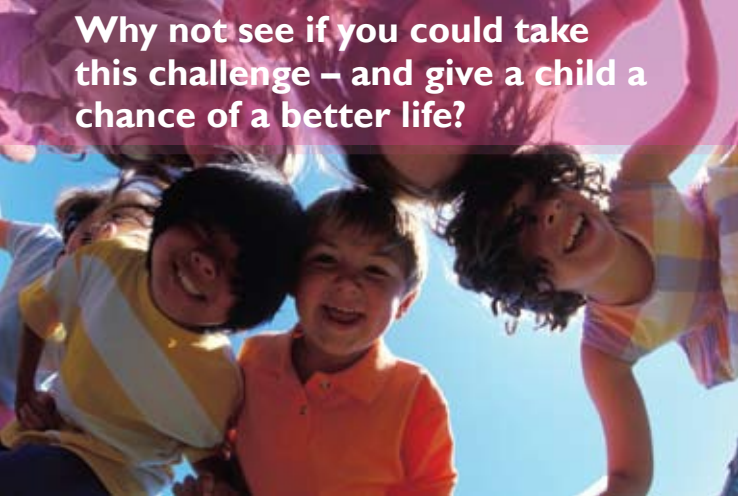
I am interested! What happens now?

The first step in becoming a foster carer is contacting your HSE Local Health Office and speaking to the Fostering Team. A list of contact numbers is provided on the back of this leaflet, and you can also get contact details from the HSE Infoline on CallSave 1850 24 1850. The infoline is open from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Saturday. You can also find your Local Health Office on the HSE website, www.hse.ie.

You can read more about fostering at

www.hse.ie/en/fostering
or on www.ifca.ie

Why not see if you could take this challenge – and give a child a chance of a better life?



Carlow /Kilkenny	056 7784532
Cavan	049 4377305 / 306
Clare	061 718400
Cork	021 4923025
Donegal	074 9123675
Dublin North West	01 8692700
Dublin North	01 8708000
Dublin North Central	01 8556871
Dublin South City	01 6486650
Dublin South East	01 2680361
Dublin South West	01 4600615
Dublin West	01 6206387
Dun Laoghaire	01 6637300
Galway	091 546354/366
Kerry	066 7195623
Kildare / West Wickow	045 896120
Laois / Offaly	057 9370700
Limerick	061 328336
Longford	043 50783
Louth	042 9392220
Mayo	096 21511
Meath	046 9097800
Monaghan	047 30426
Roscommon	071-9662087
Sligo	071 9141011
South Tipperary	052 77303 / 77302
North Tipperary	067 46661
Waterford	051 842880
Westmeath	0906 491324
Wexford	053 9123522
Wicklow	01 2871482
Shared Rearing Traveller Fostering Service	01 6206387



Becoming a Foster Parent



Could you give a child a chance?

 Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive





Fostering – is it for you?

Who can foster?



What is Fostering?

“it’s about providing stepping stones to a better future”

Mary foster parent

Foster care is caring for and sharing your home and family life with children who are unable to live with their own families for a variety of reasons. These might include parents with physical or mental health problems, alcohol or substance abuse, and may be added to by poverty, poor housing and other difficulties. Children may need foster care for short or long periods.

“helping children to blossom”

Sinead foster parent



Many different types of people can provide foster care.

- Couples – married, co-habiting, same gender
- People who are single, widowed, separated or divorced
- People with disabilities, provided your disability or medical condition does not prevent you from caring for a child
- People who already have children and people who do not have children
- People who own their own homes, are in private rented accommodation or local authority housing
- Employed and unemployed people
- People from different cultures, ethnic or religious backgrounds – having carers from different cultures allows us to match children and young people with suitable families

However, in all cases it is vital that:

- You can provide a stable, nurturing and loving environment for children
- You relate well to and have respect for children
- You do not have a police record for violence, offences against children or other serious offences
- You can demonstrate flexibility, openness and patience
- You are aware of and open to understanding children’s behaviour when they have been physically or emotionally hurt
- You are willing to attend training courses and support groups
- You have room in your home for a child or young person

“giving children good memories and the tools to survive and improve their lives”

Frank foster parent