

A close-up photograph of a young child's face, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The child's hand is visible near their mouth, with fingers resting against the chin. The background is dark and out of focus.

Are you looking after
someone else's child?

Do you know
someone who is?



What is private fostering?

Private fostering is an arrangement where a child or young person under the age of 16 (or under 18 if they are disabled) is looked after full time for more than 27 days by an adult who is not their:

- Parent, step-parent or legal guardian.
- Grandparent.

- Brother or sister.
- Aunt or uncle.

Private fostering is very different from a child being cared for by a council foster carer. It is an agreement between the child's parents and a private carer to look after their child while the parent is away.

Some examples of private fostering

Private fostering agreements happen when:

- A teenager who isn't getting on with their parents goes to live with a friend's family.
- An unaccompanied minor is looked after by family friends while their parents are abroad.
- Parents pay someone to care for their child while they are away working or studying.
- Children are sent from abroad to live with other families in the UK.
- Children are brought to the UK for adoption.
- Children at boarding schools do not return home for the holidays and live with a host family.
- Children from abroad attending language schools in the UK live with a host family.

What the law says

By law, all private fostering arrangements have to be registered with the local authority where the private foster carer lives, because local authorities have a duty to make sure that privately fostered children are safe and are being well cared for.

Parents, private foster carers or anyone else who is involved in making arrangements for a child

to be privately fostered must tell the local authority about the arrangement at least six weeks before the child goes to live with their new carer.

If a child is already living with a private foster carer, the carer must tell the local authority about the arrangement within 48 hours of the child going to live with them.

What parents need to do

If you are making arrangements for your child to be cared for by someone who is not a close relative, you need to notify the Council's Children's Safeguarding and Social Work (CSSW) six weeks before the arrangements start. You should contact the fostering team on 020 7974 6783 or email fostering@camden.gov.uk to get more information about private fostering.

You will be visited by a social worker, who will help you to fill in the private fostering notification form. The social worker will also begin the private fostering assessment and answer any questions you might have about private fostering arrangements.

What private foster carers need to do

If you are about to look after a child under a private fostering agreement or are already doing so, you need to notify CSSW within 48 hours of the child coming to live with you. This is because by law, local authorities have to carry out certain checks on private foster carers, such as checks with the police, to make sure it is safe for the child to live with them.

You should contact the fostering team on 020 7974 6783 or email fostering@camden.gov.uk to tell us that the child is living with you. You will be visited by a social worker who will help you to complete the private fostering notification form if the child's parents have not already done this and begin the private fostering assessment.

What parents and private foster carers need to agree

It's a good idea for parents and private foster carers to have a written agreement so that everyone is clear about how the child should be cared for.

Information about what the child likes and dislikes, if they have any hobbies or if they need to take medicines are all important and will help the carer to look after the child well.

Children will want to know how often they will see their parents and how long they will stay with the private foster carer. Parents need to agree that the private foster carer is able to consent to medical treatment for the child.

You can ask social workers in the fostering team for advice about what to put in the agreement.

What Children's Safeguarding and social work needs to do

CSSW is responsible for making sure privately fostered children are safe and being well cared for. To do this:

- A social worker will carry out a private fostering assessment to make sure that the care arrangements are suitable for the child and to see if the child needs any extra help.
- The fostering team will carry out checks with the police and other agencies to make sure the private foster carer is a suitable person to care for the child.
- If the child or private foster carer needs more help or support, CSSW can provide this.
- A social worker will regularly visit the household, to see that the child is well and whether the private foster carer needs any advice, support or training to help them care for the child.

For further information about private fostering, please contact the fostering team 020 7974 6783 or email fostering@camden.gov.uk





If you would like this Information on private fostering leaflet in large print, braille, on audiotape or in another language, please phone 020 7974 5181.

Camden fostering team
Supporting People Directorate
Camden Council
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Judd Street
London WC1H 9JE
Telephone 020 7974 5181
Email fosteringteam@camden.gov.uk
Textphone 020 7974 6866

إذا أردت هذه المعلومات حول العناية بالأطفال الخاصة
بالطبعة الكبيرة أو بلغة بريل أو على الشريط أو بلغتك الأم
فالرجاء الاتصال مع رقم: 020 7974 5181.

আপনি যদি 'প্রাইভেট ফস্টারিং লিফলেট'–এর ব্যাপারে এ তথ্যটি বড় ছাপার অক্ষরে অথবা ব্রেইল বা অন্ধলিপিতে, অডিও টেইপ বা বাজিয়ে শোনার কেসেটে অথবা আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 020 7974 5181 নাম্বারে ফোন করুন।

اگر چنانچه میخواهید به جزوه راهنمای فرزند خواندگی خصوصی
به صورت چاپ درشت چاپ برجسته و یا نوار صوتی و یا
اینکه به زبان خودتان دسترنی یابید لطفا با شماره تلفن
020 7974 5181 تماس حاصل نمایید.

Si vous souhaitez obtenir ce dépliant intitulé Informations concernant les placements privés en famille d'accueil en gros caractères ou en braille, sur support audio ou dans votre langue, veuillez contacter le 020 7974 5181.

Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd in xogtaan ku saabsan Korsashada Gaarka ah ee Ilmaha oo ku qoran far waaweyn ama farta dadka indhaha la' ee braille, ama iyadoo cod ah oo cajalad ku duuban amase iyadoo ku tarjuman afka aad ku hadashid fadlan la soo xiriir 020 7974 5181 .

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