



My Little Book of Fostering



Issued in Sept 2011 by
Middlesbrough Fostering Service



Living at home

Sometimes when children live at home, their mum, dad or who ever usually looks after them, cannot look after them.

There are lots of reasons why they might not be able to look after you at the moment.

They might need some help.

A grown up called a social worker will visit you at home.

They will listen to you, your mum, dad or who ever looks after you.

Lots of families have problems. The social worker will try to help to do what is best for you.

You might go to live somewhere else for a while.



What is Fostering?

Fostering is going to stay with a new family when it is not the right time to live at home with your own family.

Some foster parents will live on their own
Some will be looking after other children

The new family you stay with is your "foster family"

Your foster family will:

- look after you when you are with them
- keep you safe
- help you when you are sad
- help you feel happy



My new foster home is at:



My foster carers are:



Other people in my foster family are:



The pets in my new foster home are



What toys are in my bedroom



The Fostering Service

This is a special team of people in Social Services who will:

- find a foster home for you
- help your foster carers to keep you safe and make you happy
- help you to stay healthy
- help you with school
- help you keep in touch with your family and friends

All of these people together provide the "fostering service"

Because you are the most important you are at the top!

Your foster carer or social worker will help you fill the names in

You.....

Your Foster Family.....

Your Foster Carer Social Worker.....

The Social Worker Manager.....

Your Social Worker.....

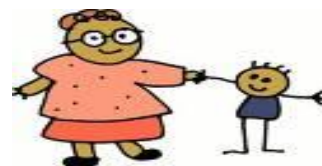
The Social Worker Manager.....

Service Manager.....

Your social worker

Your social worker will:

- get to know you
- listen to you
- help you
- make sure you are safe and happy



Your Rights

When you are in foster care you should be allowed:



To feel safe

To be listened
to

Not to be
hurt

To be healthy

To have your
own space

To have a
hobbie

To speak to your
social worker

To attend
school

Family and friends

When you are living in your foster home you can still see your family and friends - by:



Mum, dad, sister,
brother, Nanna,
Grandad

Your social worker will help you keep in touch with your family. Sometimes you will visit or they will visit you.

It is important that you tell your social worker about everyone who you would like to see



Phone calls



Writing a letter



Drawing a picture



Visit family and Friends



Using E-mail

When you feel



sad



lonely



scared

Here are some of the people you can talk to

Social
Worker

Foster
Carer

Family

Teacher

Friends

Other people who can help

The Complaints Officer, who will help with a complaint if:

- you are not happy with the care you get
- nobody listens to you
- you are not happy with things people do for you
- you need more help

To make a complaint

The Children's Complaints Officer is based in Vancouver House:



01642 728416 Mon to Thurs 8.30 - 5.00pm, Fri 8.30 - 4.30pm

Or try



Email - voiceworthy@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Or try



Text - **07624 802273**

This is what happens when you make a complaint.....

You will get a letter saying who will look into your complaint.
You will get this letter within 3 days of us hearing from you





NYAS are there to help children and young people to make informed choices

You can contact them by



0800 616101



Logon to the Internet
www.nyas.net

or
send an Email to help@nyas.net



send a text message to
0777 333 4555

Other useful numbers



People to contact in your local area			
	Name	Telephone Number	Email/Website/Address
Your Social Worker			
Fostering Team Manager	Lynn Woodhouse	01642 201960	Lynn_woodhouse@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Reviewing + Development Unit	Independent Reviewing Officer	01642 354450	Park House, Worcester Street, Middlesbrough TS1 4NU
Other useful numbers			
Children's Rights Director	Roger Morgan	Free phone 0800 528 0731	www.rights4me.org.uk 125 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6SE
Independent Advocate		Free phone 0800 616101	www.nyas.net
Childline		Free phone 0800 111111	www.childline.org.uk
Children's Legal Centre		Advice line 01206 873820	www.childrenslegalcentre.com
The Who Cares? Trust		0500 564570	www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk



