

Case Study 4

Short term and respite

How long have you been fostering?

I have fostered for the Vale of Glamorgan for about 4 years but fostered for two other Local Authorities before I moved here.

What type of fostering do you do?

I mainly undertake respite fostering and short term placements.

Why did you want to foster?

I enjoy being with children and have six children of my own, although some have grown up and left home. Fostering allows me to try and make a difference to another child's life when they might have had some negative experiences or be going through a difficult time at home.

Why did you approach the Vale to become a foster carer?

I approached the Vale because I live in this area and they need foster carers.

What's the best thing about fostering?

The best thing about fostering is seeing the children develop, achieve small successes and start to believe in themselves. It's lovely when they start to trust you, want to join in and you can have fun with them too.

What makes a good foster carer?

Fostering can be challenging. Some children who come into care have not experienced a safe and loving relationship. This affects their behaviour and their expectations of others so don't expect them to behave like your own children, to be grateful or do as they are told. A good foster carer comes alongside a child, believes in them, protects them and has loads of time, patience and warmth.