

Case Study 5

Short term and respite

How long have you been fostering?

We were approved as foster carers in February 2014 and our first placement was in April 2013. We have been fostering for just over a year.

What type of fostering do you do?

We have chosen short term fostering and also respite. We find this has worked well for us. We have two young children and the Vale have been very good in placing children with us that ensure the safety of our own children as well as that of the looked after child.

Why did you want to foster?

We wanted to provide a fun and safe home for children who haven't been as fortunate. We felt that we could provide a caring family and give a child love and security. We had a spare room and lots of time as I am a stay at home mum. My husband is a police officer and he wanted to be able to see a positive side to children being placed in care.

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

We approached the Vale as we thought not only would it be practical for us but also for the child as we would live near their family and schools. We also felt that we wanted to deal direct with the local authority who cared for the children and not through a third party agency.

What's the best thing about fostering?

We are able to provide a stable and caring home for a child while their family maybe having difficulties. We know then that the child is safe whilst everyone is working to find a safe future for that child. It is very rewarding to watch a child grow and develop in a caring family environment. Our children also very much enjoy having new friends for extended "sleepovers".

What makes a good foster carer?

Someone who is patient, caring, loving and understands the reasons why children sometimes need to be fostered. We think you also need to remain impartial and focus on the child themselves and not the situation why they have become placed in your care.