

Myth:

**You can't foster
if you are single.**

Reality:

You can! Single people can and do make great foster carers.

Myth:

You can't foster if you are too old or too young.

Reality:

You can! You must be over 21 to foster and there are no upper age limits for fostering, as long as you are fit and healthy to care for a child.

Myth:

You can't foster if you have no qualifications.

Reality:

You can! There are no specific formal qualifications required to foster. A lot of our foster carers say the biggest skill you need is being able to listen.

Myth:

You can't foster if you already have kids.

Reality:

You can! Many people who foster have their own children living at home and foster at the same time.

Myth:

**You can't foster
if you are gay.**

Reality:

You can! We consider your ability to provide a safe, secure and caring environment for a child to stay, not your sexuality.

Myth:

You can't foster if you don't own a house.

Reality:

You can! It makes no difference as long as you have enough space in your home for each young person. This is assessed on an individual basis.

Myth:

You can't foster if you haven't got children.

Reality:

You can! You don't have to have had children to be able to foster.

Myth:

**You can't foster
if you work.**

Reality:

You can! But this will depend on the age and circumstance of the children/teenagers you are fostering, the type of fostering placement and on the hours you work as to whether you can combine the two.

Myth:

**You can't foster
if you have pets.**

Reality:

You can! We just need to make sure that there is no risk to the child from the pet and to be aware when placing children in case they have any allergies or phobias.

Myth:

I won't get any support or help.

Reality:

You will! We have highly experienced staff who can answer any questions you may have and you can be allocated a peer mentor. Ongoing you will be provided with support and ongoing training and receive a paid allowance.

Myth:

The application process is too complicated.

Reality:

The assessment process usually takes around six months. The process may seem daunting but we have staff who are able to help you through the process.

Myth:

They won't want me!

Reality:

We do! There is no such thing as a typical foster carer. Our carers come from all sorts of different backgrounds – with one thing in common; they care about the children they help.

Myth:

You can't foster if you have a disability.

Reality:

Your health and long-term conditions will be considered when applying to foster. The most important factor is whether you are able to cope with the demands of caring for a child. This will vary with every potential Foster Carer.

Myth:

**You can't foster
if you smoke.**

Reality:

Our current policy is that we do not place children under 5 or vulnerable children who have respiratory, heart or other medical conditions in homes where there is a smoker.