

Dispelling the myths of **fostering**

I'm single, can I still foster?

Do I need to have a spare room?

Will fostering affect my benefits?

I do not own my own house, is this a problem?

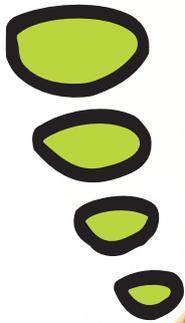
Can I foster and still work full-time?

Do I need any formal qualifications?

Can I foster if I have a disability?

Will having a criminal record rule me out?

Can I foster if I smoke?



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or email us at fostering@islington.gov.uk
www.islington.gov.uk/fostering



ISLINGTON

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I'm single, can I still foster?

Yes – Islington welcomes applications from single people of both sexes, those in a relationship or married couples.

Do I need to have a spare room?

No – however, this would limit the ages you can care for. Children under three may be able to have a cot in the bedroom but older children would require a room of their own.

Will fostering affect my benefits?

You can continue to claim Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit as your fostering allowance will be disregarded in full as income. You can also claim income support if you are looking after a foster child under 16. We recommend however, you check with your local benefits agency when you apply in case of legislation changes.

I do not own my own house, is this a problem?

No – Islington foster carers live in owned or rented accommodation, and are private or council tenants.

Can I foster and still work full-time?

Yes – however, this would limit what kind of fostering you would be able to do. To foster preschool-age children, you would need to be available all day, but you can combine fostering older children with employment.

Do I need any formal qualifications?

No – you don't need any formal qualifications to foster with Islington. In fact you will have the opportunity gain qualifications through attending training

Can I foster if I have a disability?

Yes – Islington welcomes disabled applicants. Every person who applies to Islington will have a medical to check health or disability issues.

Will having a criminal record rule me out?

We try to get a balanced picture of where people are now in their lives but violent or child-related convictions would rule you out. Many people who have a criminal record, or who have been cautioned, can still apply to be a foster carer.

Can I foster if I smoke?

Yes, although you would not be able to foster children under the age of five years. We would encourage you to stop smoking for your own health and for the effect of passive smoking on a young person as well as presenting a positive role model for any child you look after.

‘Now you know the facts, what's stopping you?’