



The Government Standard



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Community Based Assessment

Information for Foster Carers
Specialist Foster Placements
for Parent and Child



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For all children to do better in life than they
ever thought they could

Ofsted
Outstanding
2010|2011

Introduction

Sometimes families need extra help in caring for their children. Could you offer space in your home and provide support and assessment to struggling parents?

We are looking for foster carers who could offer a placement to one or both parents and their child/ren (under 5 years).

Community Based Assessment (CBA) Model

You'll be working within the CBA model, which draws on expertise from a range of professionals.



Agencies involved in the Community Based Assessment (CBA)

The CBA provides an assessment of parenting capacity in collaboration with other agencies. Professionals involved may include: Health Visitors, Mental Health workers, Drugs and Alcohol workers and/or Learning Disability workers, depending on the needs of each individual parent.

The CBA also aims to help parents manage stressful experiences, deal with life events and to help them to enjoy family life.

Additional Support

You will have a comprehensive introduction with the family to ensure everyone is clear about the aims and objectives of the placement, and to establish a clear agreement about acceptable behaviour.

On-going training and development is provided to assist you with your role. There will also be regular meetings to review the placement plan, and you will be involved at every stage.



The Team

You will work with:

- Family Placement Team Supervisor
- The child's Social Worker
- Senior Practitioner—Intensive Parenting Assessments
- The agencies involved in the CBA

Family Placement Team Supervisor

You will be supported by an experienced supervising social worker from the Family Placement Team. You will have regular contact with your supervising social worker who will visit fortnightly to provide support, advice and discuss any concerns you may have.

Child Social worker

The child's social worker will be visiting regularly to meet with the child and will keep you informed of any changes to the child's care plan and any court proceedings.

Senior Practitioner—Intensive Parenting Assessments

The Senior Practitioner will visit regularly to meet with the parent and child for the purposes of the assessment. The Senior Practitioner will talk with you about your observations and assessment and how the information you provide will be used.

Specialist Parent and Child Foster Carer

The Family Placement Team provides specialist foster placements for a parent or both parents and their child/ren.

The specialist parent and child foster carer needs to:

- Have the parent/s and child/ren to live with them in their home, for a period of between 3-6 months, after which ongoing plans for the family will be clearer.
- Support and assess vulnerable parents and help them learn how to look after their child/ren safely.
- Attend meetings and contribute to the social work assessment by keeping detailed records.
- Work closely with Children's Social Care and other agencies.
- Be able to facilitate contact with significant family members.
- Have good communication skills, patience, understanding, observational skills and a sense of humour!

We are not necessarily looking for foster carers who have academic qualifications, but we are seeking carers who have experience of working with families.

Placement Information

We ask carers to provide placements that support, advise and assess parents. Circumstances of each placement will be different, but is likely to include:

- The parent is unable to provide safe care for their child/ren at home.
- The child/ren may be subject to a court order or the parent has voluntarily agreed to this arrangement.
- The parent may have a learning disability, mental health problem or have experienced domestic abuse, (some parent's may have a history of addiction).
- Placing the parent and child together should enable clear assessment information to be gathered by the foster carer, and these records could be used in court.
- These placements will provide an alternative to residential placements within a community setting.
- Contributions to ongoing plans following the end of a placement.



Payments

Weekly fee of £200 plus the basic weekly allowance for the child and parent.* (This will be approximately a total of £550 for one parent and one child). *The weekly allowance will increase if there is more than one child and/or parent.

Retainer

If you don't have a placement you'll continue to receive the weekly fee and undertake parenting support in the community for approximately 15 to 20 hours a week. This could consist of providing ongoing support to parents who have recently left a placement.