

Support for Family Link Carers

Each Family Link carer is allocated a Family Link social worker. The role of this worker is to identify appropriate links with children/young people and make sure this runs smoothly, by offering ongoing supervision and support. Family Link social workers will often attend meetings with the carer and parents about the child/young person they are caring for.

We also run support groups on a quarterly basis, visit you regularly at home and provide some equipment for undertaking Family Link. You will receive an allowance and expenses for all sessions undertaken.

What Happens Once You Are Approved?

The amount of work you do for the scheme will be entirely up to you – some people do a great deal (several sessions per week), whilst other people do just one or two per month. As part of your assessment we will discuss your preferences.

Links with children/young people are always made through the Family Link co-ordinator. You will be provided with full information about a child/young person to enable you to consider a potential link, before meeting them or their family and before making a commitment. Once everyone is happy then a written agreement is made which includes the number of sessions, types of activities and other practical details. You will be expected to keep written records about your Link placements. Ongoing support will be provided –including a telephone service when the office is shut.

**There can be rewards for everyone involved in
Family Link - please contact us for more information.**

Family Link Scheme - Short Breaks for Disabled Children/Young People

**Can you offer short-term care for
a disabled child or young person?**



**Family Placement Team,
PO Box 3343, Bath BA1 2ZH
Tel. 01225 395311**

What is Family Link?

The Family Link scheme provides a “short break” service for disabled children and young people living in the Bath and North East Somerset area. These children/young people have been assessed by Children’s Services as likely to benefit from the service.

Children/young people are ‘linked’ with approved carers who offer either:

- Daytime - including after school/evening; Saturday/Sunday and school holidays. This may include going out on trips or attending community activities. Family Link is usually based in the carers home.
- Or:
- Overnight stays -for one night, a weekend or a few days.

Why Family Link?

The short breaks and support which Family Link provides are designed to benefit the whole family. The scheme can provide families with a break, as well as a chance for the child/young person to join in things they might enjoy; they will also have a chance of meeting new friends from outside their school or family circle.

We can link disabled children/young people of all ages and who have a variety of needs.

Who can become a Family Link carer?

We need all kinds of people –you can be single or with a partner, with or without children, of working age or retired and from any religious, cultural or ethnic background. We are looking for people who would enjoy caring for a disabled child/young person for a short time; who have energy, common sense and patience. You can either have experience or a willingness to learn.

How do I become a Family Link carer?

We will be happy to visit your home for an initial discussion about the scheme. If you would like to become a Family Link carer, you will then participate in a thorough assessment process, including a number of checks –these are:

- 2 personal references
- Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check
- Medical/health check
- Child Protection check
- Other local authority checks

A social worker from the Family Placement Team will make a series of visits, which will include talking to other members of your household. They aim to get to know you and help you decide which children/young people you would be able to support. You will also be expected to attend a preparation course, which will include important information about Family Link and disabled children/young people. These courses are usually held on Saturdays. We will also ask you to contribute to a report, which will be considered by a panel.

The whole process will take between four to six months, after which we hope to link you with a child/young person who needs your support.

Further Training

After being approved as a Family Link carer you will be offered ongoing training, which we encourage you to attend.



If you choose to become a Family Link carer – we hope you find it rewarding.

We know from disabled children and their families that it is a service they value greatly.