

Abbey and Chris

We have been fostering for 12 years and find it really good fun. I find it fits in really well with my work since we tend to focus more on short term and respite.

I had thought about fostering for years but only really appreciated there was a shortage of foster carers when I started working in social care. I spoke to my partner about it and decided it was something we both wanted to do, so we made that all important phone call and bravely took that step into the unknown.

Our own experience of children gave us the confidence to put ourselves forward, so after speaking to other foster carers we felt it was something we could do. Once we tried it we found we liked it and the first young person who came to us was a really good match.

Fostering has brought so much fun into our lives. All the children bring something unique. They help you to look at the world through different eyes.

It makes you realise how achieving even the smallest things are so important and making a connection with a young person means so much. Giving them a safe place to be themselves and providing them with a glimpse of family life means the world. Just seeing how we all pitch in together and help each other.

It's so important to have the time to do things with them and the willingness to include them in all your family activities. Our friends and family are brilliant at this, they always buy presents at birthdays and Christmas.

We have learnt so much about ourselves through fostering and have grown so close together and realise we make a great team. It's truly been a journey of discovery.

Our advice would be, if you are thinking about it, then go for it!