

Foster Carer Task Descriptions

Appendix 1

Mainstream Carer Tasks	Additional Career Carer Tasks
1. Caring For Children	
<p>1. To provide day-to-day care of the children being looked after, having regard to the particular demands on children separated from their families.</p> <p>2. To take part in implementing the child care plan, which would include specific tasks and often, contact with parents and others who are important to the child.</p> <p>3. To promote the healthy growth and development of the child or children with particular emphasis on:</p> <p>(a) Health - taking responsibility for ensuring appropriate appointments are made, including those for dental treatment and eye test.</p> <p>- taking the child to medical appointments as necessary after discussion with the social worker and the child's family.</p> <p>- keep a record of any health concerns and appointments.</p> <p>(b) Sex Education - talking to the child about sexual development as appropriate to their age and understanding.</p> <p>(c) Education - attending parents evenings at school as necessary after discussion with the social worker and the child's family.</p> <p>- providing the child with an environment to stimulate interests and develop activities.</p> <p>- working together with teaching staff to encourage educational achievement.</p> <p>4. To ensure that the children being looked after are encouraged in a positive understanding of their origins, religion and culture.</p> <p>5. To assist and support parents and other people who are significant in a child's life to sustain and develop relations with them.</p> <p>6. To enable children and young people who are moving on to do so in a positive manner.</p> <p>7. To be able to respond to the child/ young person's emotional age as well as their actual age.</p> <p>8. To be available to look after a child who is experiencing problems with mainstream education including being excluded from school.</p>	<p>9. To continue to offer support to young people who have moved on, to help them adapt to independent living.</p> <p>10. One of the carers (if there are 2 carers in the family) to be available during the day, i.e not employed outside the home or to be available at any one time to meet the particular needs of any child placed with them. (Essential)</p> <p>11. To be able to work with different approaches to change patterns of behaviour. (Essential)</p> <p>12. To be able to work with children with challenging behaviour using skills to manage and divert the behaviour (Essential).</p> <p>13. To look after a child experiencing problems within education, including exclusions from school for extended periods. (Essential)</p> <p>14. To be able to provide appropriate levels of care and stimulation to babies and toddlers and children with complex needs.</p>

2. Providing a Safe and Caring Environment

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that children are kept safe from harm and abuse and that they are taught how to get help should anything untoward occur. 2. To promote the secure attachment of children to adults capable of providing safe and effective care. 3. To act as an advocate for each child. 4. To be able to maintain a positive relationship with a child. 5. To move children on in a planned way | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. To be able to maintain a positive relationship with a child to sustain a placement through periods of stress which includes a child displaying extremely challenging behaviour. (Essential) 7. To be able to work with children/young people who are at risk of significant harm using strategies to minimise the risks posed (a) to themselves (b) to others (c) from others. (Essential) 8. To move children on in a planned way, even when it is clear that the placement cannot continue. (Essential) 9. To provide a high level of supervision. (Essential) |
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3. Working as part of a Team

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be part of the agency and work with other agency staff and professionals within agency guidelines, policies and procedures. 2. To attend and actively participate in all reviews, family meetings, case conferences and court hearings as required and to keep written records of placements and contribute to reports. 3. To deal responsibly with confidential information. 4. To notify the Out of Hours Service and/or social worker when a child does not return home as arranged. 5. To write a daily record about the child/ young person including positives and concerns. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. To be available and willing to assist at recruitment and training events and development groups at request of Family Placement Team. (Essential) 7. To actively promote positives of fostering within local communities and amongst other carers. (Essential) |
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4. Own Development

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To recognise the impact of fostering has on one's own family and help them understand the needs of a child who is looked after. 2. To maintain relationships and interests which provide support particularly through periods of stress. 3. To take up training and development opportunities appropriate to their approval status. 4. To be able to care for a child whose progress is delayed or uncertain. 5. To attend the Foster Carer Support Group on a regular basis. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. To be willing to look after a child in an emergency with little notice at any time. (Essential) 7. To have support from family or close friends to enable attendance at training and development groups. 8. To attend the Career Carer Support Group on a regular basis. (Essential) 9. To assist formally in the development of new foster carers practice by befriending and giving advice. (Essential) 10. To take up training and develop opportunities including the chance to study for the N.V.Q. Level 3, Caring for Children and Young People. |
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