

FOSTER CARERS

Home-based role, £400 pw expenses payment, plus paid respite cover

Short term, long-term and respite opportunities available.

Diagrama Fostering is urgently seeking new foster carers. There are around 60,000 children in care in the UK at the moment and we need to find new carers to help meet current demand for placements.

About the role:

Foster caring is a truly rewarding, home-based role where people look after children and young people who can't be looked after in their own homes. This may be due to family illness, family breakdown, problems at home or risk to their welfare.

Diagrama foster carers help transform the lives of vulnerable children and young people, by providing a safe and secure environment for them and caring for their daily needs. They are involved in regular meetings with social workers and parents and other professionals who have an interest in the care of the child and will be expected to support contact with the child's birth family.

Because of the child's experiences before coming into care, the role can be very challenging at times - there are never happy reasons why children come into care – so we our carers must have plenty of energy, patience and understanding and provide a home where children and young people can feel safe, secure and cared for.

You will also be expected to:

- To take part in implementing the child's care plan, including specific tasks
- To promote the healthy growth and development of the child, including educational achievement.
- To help the child have a positive understanding of their origins, religion and culture.
- To enable children and young people who are moving on to do so in a positive manner.
- To keep children safe from harm and abuse
- To promote the secure attachment of children to adults capable of providing safe and effective care.
- To act as an advocate for each child.

- To participate in all reviews, family meetings, case conferences and court hearings as required, and to keep written records of placements and contribute to reports.
- To take up appropriate training opportunities and improve skills
- Encourage children to have a range of leisure and activities within the daily lives, joining clubs, groups both, after school or outside of school environment.

About Diagrama Fostering

Diagrama is committed to offering comprehensive professional training to help prepare you for the role as well as providing regular ongoing training once you have been approved to foster. You will be assigned a dedicated social worker who will be there to support you every step of the way.

We understand that moving into a foster home can be unsettling and confusing for the child and from time to time they may react with challenging behaviour, which is why we offer all our foster carers expert support, 24 hours a day. We also provide a regular support network where you can meet up with other foster carers, share experiences and benefit from peer advice.

Diagrama offers therapeutic support to children and foster families where you will be able to access our team of counsellors, therapists, play specialists and psychologists if and when the need arises.

Personal specification:

We are looking for foster carers with the following attributes:

- Ability to set appropriate boundaries, and manage children's behaviour within these, without the use of physical or other inappropriate punishment.
- Ability to listen to and communicate with children appropriate to their age and understanding.
- Ability to share information, obtain information and have dialogue with others either in person, over the telephone and through written communication.
- A team player, able to work with other agency staff and professionals within agency guidelines, policies and procedures.
- Ability to deal responsibly with confidential information.
- Willingness 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.

- An ability to promote equality, diversity and rights of individuals and groups within society.
- An ability to think clearly and objectively during times of stress or high pressure and remain calm in the face of adversity. Having a positive outlook despite criticism, worries, and guilt.
- Belief in your ability to get the job done and being optimistic in the face of rejection
- Ability to work flexibly and a lack of discomfort in the midst of changing circumstances.

Criteria for application:

We accept applications from:

- People of all racial backgrounds.
- People of any or no religious faith.
- Married, unmarried and same sex couples who can show that their relationship is lasting, constant and enduring.
- Single people.
- People with or without children
- People over 21 - there is no upper age limit but applicants must have sufficient health and vigour to manage energetic children. If you have a medical condition or disability you will not be ruled out provided it is non-life threatening, well controlled by medication and does not affect normal daily life.
- Our carers must give an undertaking not to smack or use any other form of corporal punishment on a child in their care.
- It is a legal requirement that no adult in the household should have convictions or cautions for offences against children or have a history of violent behaviour.
- We expect our carers to be available during the day to attend training, supervision, support groups and any meetings for the fostered child.
- A fostered child will need their own room.
- It does not matter whether your home is owned or rented, but you will need adequate insurance.
- If you are a smoker, it may be inappropriate to place children with respiratory and other health issues with you. Each local authority has its own policy on smoking.

Remuneration:

It is important to us that foster carers are not out of pocket in providing foster care for children, therefore Diagrama foster carers receive approx £400 a week per child, to cover expenses related to caring for a child in their care.

From that payment foster carers are obliged to make weekly savings (currently £10 per child) and provide appropriate pocket money for each child / young person.

This payment also covers expenses for clothing, including school uniforms, shoes, coats etc as well as any clubs and costs associated with that.

Diagrama makes additional annual payments for birthdays (£100), holidays (£100) and festive celebrations, such as Christmas etc (£100).

We will also provide 14 days' paid holiday every year to allow carers to take a break.

To find out more about how you can make a difference by joining our team of foster carers, call 0208 668 2181 or email fostering@diagrama.org today.