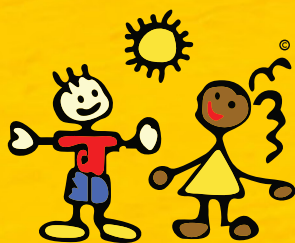


# Welcome Guide & Information



**Synergy Fostering**

## Table of Contents

Welcome.....	1
All About Me .....	1
Contact us.....	1
What is a Foster Carer?.....	2
What is a Child's Social Worker?.....	2
What is a Supervising Social Worker? .....	3
What is an Independent Reviewing Officer? .....	3
Contact with Family and Friends .....	4
My Bedroom.....	4
Who we are .....	4
My Religion .....	4
Hobbies & Activities .....	4
Fun with Synergy .....	5
Problems and Complaints.....	5

# Welcome

We want you to feel comfortable in your foster family and will work very hard to make sure that you have a happy and rewarding stay. You have your own social worker who will work with you and your carer(s) to make sure that you have everything you need and you are happy in your home.

This guide should give you all the information you need to understand who we are, what you can expect and how you can get more information or support if you need it; as well as some useful information to help you settle in.

## All about me

Your name : .....

Your age : .....

Your favourite colour: .....

Favourite things to do: .....





## What is a Foster carer?

Foster carers are specially trained people who look after children, young people and sometimes parents and their baby's in their own homes when they are unable to live with their family. It is a foster carers job to care for you and make sure that you have the things you need to be safe, happy and healthy. They are there to help you and will always listen to you if you need someone to talk to.

All Synergy foster carers, their families and their homes have been carefully checked to make sure that they can offer you a safe place to live. At Synergy Fostering, we do our best to match the right carers with you.

Foster carers name : .....

Their address : .....

Their telephone No : .....

## What is a Child's Social Worker?

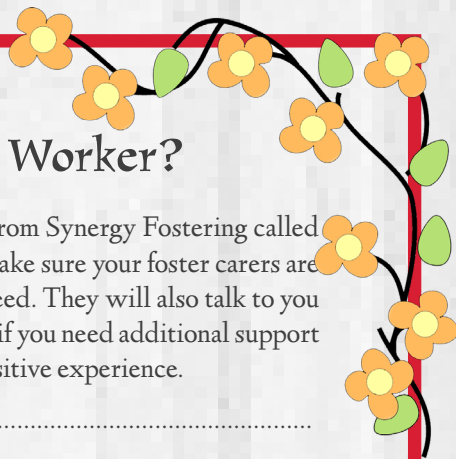
You will have your own social worker from the local authority that you come from. It is their job to make sure that you are OK and to help you. Your social worker will visit you regularly to listen to your questions and support you with your concerns and worries. They will work with your family and make arrangements for you to keep in touch with the people who are important to you. They will talk to you about what is happening in your life and attend meetings and make sure that appropriate plans are made for you.

Social workers name : .....

Their telephone No : .....







## What is a Supervising Social Worker?

Your foster carers will have their own social worker from Synergy Fostering called a Supervising Social Worker (SSW). Their job is to make sure your foster carers are looking after you properly and have all the help they need. They will also talk to you to make sure that you are happy and well cared for and if you need additional support or advice to enable you to make your stay with us a positive experience.

Supervising Social Worker's name: .....

Their telephone No : .....



## What is an Independent Reviewing Officer?

The Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) must make sure that you and the people that care about you are involved in the plans for your care and that your wishes and feelings are known. Your social worker will arrange a review meeting which the IRO will attend. The review is about you so it is really important that you attend so that you can hear what is said, share your own views and take part in decisions that are made. The people that will come to your review are those people who know about you and those who play a part in your life. This will include your foster carers, your social worker, Supervising social worker, your parents or other family members if possible, and any adults who are important to you.

IRO's name : .....

IRO's telephone No : .....





## Contact with Family and Friends

Your social worker will speak to you about your family and they will let you know who you will be able to see. They will let you know what days you can see your family or any important person and they will keep in touch with them through visits, phone calls or letters.

## My Bedroom

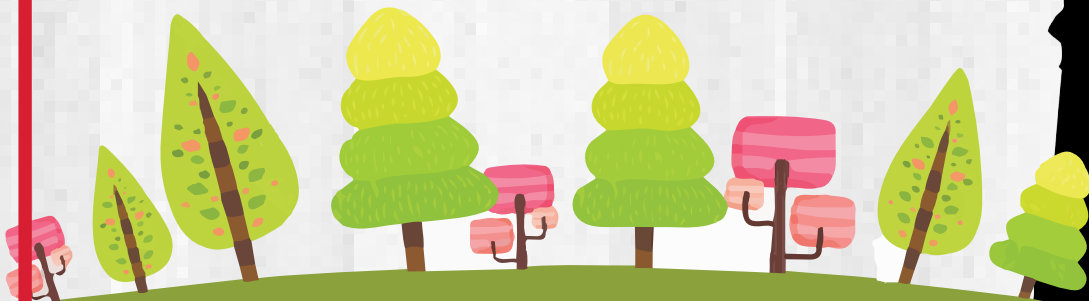
In your foster home you will have a bedroom of your own. You would only be asked to share a bedroom if it is with your brother or sister. Your bedroom is your private space where you will be able to keep your clothes and special items such as toys, books and photographs in. No-one will enter your bedroom without knocking and getting your permission.

## My Religion

If you wish to practice your religion, you may want to go to a mosque, church, temple, synagogue or any other place of worship. There may also be special rituals for you to follow and religious festivals that you want to celebrate. Your foster carer will help you to celebrate significant events in your religion.

## Hobbies and Activities

Having a hobby or taking part in activities can be a good way to make friends and learn new skills. Some people like to learn and play sports or a musical instrument and others have an interest in dance, drama, singing or clubs such as Scouts. Think about what kinds of activities you would like to do and talk to your foster carer, social worker or SSW as we all want to help you to be the best that you can be.





# Fun with Synergy



At Synergy Fostering we like to have fun with our foster carers and the children, young people or parents and babies they look after.

Every year we organize trips or events in the school holidays. In the past we have been to the beach, Theme parks such Thorpe Park, Chessington and Legoland, visited Cadburys World and had sports fun days.

## Problems & Complaints

Sometimes we can have problems and don't know what to do about them. They can make us feel sad, angry and lonely. If you are feeling like this, it is important that you talk to someone you trust so they can help you.

This person could be your foster carer, teacher, social worker or Supervising Social Worker. If you feel you cant talk to these people then you can speak to the following people:

Shobha Harris,  
Manager of Synergy Fostering  
Tel: 07825205755

Ofsted  
Tel: 03001231231

Children's Commissioner  
Tel: 0800 528 0731

Coram Voice, Always heard  
helpline:  
Tel: 0808 800 5792





“

## Who we are

We are a family run, independent fostering agency. We have been helping foster families look after children and young people for more than 18 years and we like to keep a family atmosphere amongst our staff, foster carers and young people.

”

## Contact Us

Synergy Fostering Ltd:  
Unit C2, Ensign House,  
Rope Street,  
London  
SE16 7EX



**Synergy Fostering**

MATCHING NEEDS WITH CARE™

Tel : 0203 713 7293  
Fax : 0203 771 2051  
Email: [enquiries@synergy-fostering.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@synergy-fostering.co.uk)  
Web: [www.synergy-fostering.co.uk](http://www.synergy-fostering.co.uk)