

Put yourself in the picture



Foster carers Jane and Sally are long-term Foster Carers who foster one little boy with disabilities

We wanted to foster partly because Jane's parents have a child in a long term foster placement, and it has been amazing to see the progress that has been made in the child's life. (however, prior to this, Jane had always thought that fostering would be something she would like to do). Following our civil partnership, we really wanted the next step of family life. Obviously we were unable to have children naturally, and we had considered adoption. However, because we have worked supporting adults with learning disabilities to increase their independence and skills, and because learning disabilities have always been a part of our personal lives, we felt that it was a natural path for us to look after a child with a learning disability. Due to the extra emotional support that can be sought through fostering, we chose this route rather than adoption, as obviously a child with a learning disability can present a lot of extra challenges!

We found that the thought of the assessment process was much more daunting than actually going through it! The link workers were, and are, really approachable and friendly, and have given lots of advice and encouragement. As a gay couple, we were a little worried at first about how we might be perceived, but right from the start we were welcomed as "a family" who were interested in fostering, rather than just prospective carers.

Since we began fostering last March, our lives have been transformed! We thought that we were pretty prepared, but we are still learning so much, both about the little boy in our care, and about life as foster carers, every day. Our home has been full of laughter, tears, and pride and we would never want it any other way.