

Put yourself in the picture



Julie specialises in fostering sibling groups

I have been fostering sibling groups for over twenty years. I really enjoy caring for young groups of children and moving them on to their adoptive families.

I never made a conscious decision to foster a sibling group. However, I was approached as the children came into care, and found I particularly enjoyed this and I did not like to think of children being separated as they have also been separated from their parents.

Some of the challenges have been managing sibling rivalry which is to be expected but can be more significant with children who have had difficult upbringings. Sometimes this is not manageable and the decision is made to separate the children. Although this may be for the children's best interests, I do find this hard.

There are positive times as the children will have an opportunity to do things together and have good memories of their time as children with their brothers and sisters. When in a safe and secure placement children have the opportunity to develop close bonds with each other, which will last a life time. Practically, it is easier caring for siblings rather than for children from separate families as they all go to contact together and have the same meetings, appointments and so on.

I would say that although challenging there are many rewards in fostering. I am still in contact with the many children that I have helped move to their new families who are very happy.