# Fostering FAQ

## How many children can I foster?

It depends on how much space you have in your home, but we ask that you have one spare bedroom for fostering. We will discuss how many children you can foster at your home visit.

## Can I foster if I live with extended family?

This will depend on a number of factors, including:

• who owns your home and are they are happy for you to foster in the home

• who lives with you

• if there’s enough space in your home

• whether the other people in your home are happy to foster and be included in your fostering assessment

We can discuss this with you in more detail.

## Can I foster if I have a criminal record?

Many factors determine whether someone with a criminal record is eligible to foster a child, including the type of crime and when it was committed. If you wish to foster and have a criminal record, please speak with our team who can advise you on your eligibility.

As part of the assessment process, all applicants and all members of the applicants’ household have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, where all previous criminal convictions will need to be recorded and discussed.

## Do I need any special qualifications to foster?

No, you don’t need any special qualifications to foster. We will provide you with the training and ongoing development to help get you ready for the role.

We do ask that you have some childcare experience, whether this is through work or with your own children.

## Can I foster if I’m overweight?

Being overweight does not exclude you from fostering. As part of the fostering application process, all potential carers complete a medical assessment, which is sent to our medical advisor for their views.

All foster carers need to be healthy and active to look after our children and young people.

## Can I foster if I don’t drive?

Whilst having a car can make the school run, getting children to appointments and food shopping easier, you can still be a foster carer if you don’t drive. We can discuss how it could work for you at your home visit.