

# Fostering with Tree House Care

---



**Tree House Care**  
doing the right thing for our children





**At Tree House Care, we are motivated by one simple thought — doing the right thing for our children.**

We do this by creating a supportive, therapeutic environment for our foster carers and staff, empowering them to provide outstanding levels of care. We want our children to thrive, so we focus on creating good memories that our children can look back on, happy today in safe and loving homes and hopeful futures, enabling them to fulfil their potential.

We are lucky to have some of the most dedicated and nurturing foster carers, who build long-standing, trusting relationships with us, so we can all work together to provide stable, loving homes for our children.

**Could you join our fostering community?**

## Contents

- 03-04** What is fostering?  
Simple steps to fostering
- 05-06** Why choose Tree House Care?
  - Pay
  - Training and Support
- 07-08** Some questions you might have
- 09-10** What happens next?  
Contact us

“One of the things I love about Tree House Care is that they recognise you can’t have outstanding quality for children without offering great support for the foster carers. It sounds so simple but it’s something many agencies overlook”

*One of our Tree House foster carers*







## Simple steps to fostering

At Tree House Care, we have a simple, 6-step application process to becoming a foster carer, that begins with you getting in touch with us for the first time and ends roughly 6 months later, when you are approved to welcome a foster child into your home.



### Get in touch

Getting in touch with us is easy!

- You can complete our enquiry form online [here](#)
- Email us at [enquiries@treehousecare.org](mailto:enquiries@treehousecare.org)
- Contact us through our FaceBook page [here](#)
- Or give us a call on **0800 012 6507**

### Home visit

If you like what you hear, we'll arrange a convenient time to come to your home.

This is a chance to chat about fostering in more detail and for us to get to know each other. We'll let you know what you can expect from the application process and fill in your application form if you're happy to continue.

But no pressure, if you'd prefer, we can leave the application pack with you, so you can fill it in on your own time.

### Assessment

Once we've received your completed application form, we'll continue the application process by making identity checks, advanced DBS checks and taking work and personal references.

You'll also have a medical check to make sure you are fit and healthy, and we'll do a health and safety assessment of your home.

At any point you can pause the process or decide that it's not for you — we'll always move at your speed and want you to be completely comfortable!

# What is fostering?

At Tree House Care we believe that all children deserve a safe, loving home, with people who can guide and nurture them. Unfortunately, there are many reasons why this may not be possible with their birth families including bereavement, illness, breakdown in family relationships or other issues such as neglect or abuse.

As a foster carer, you will be caring for a child in your own home, and this can last from just a few days to several years. Helping a child in need and watching them fulfil their potential is a truly amazing experience and is life-changing for the child and the carer.

You will work in partnership with the fostering agency, children's services departments, and the child's parents to make sure the child has a happy, safe and supportive home life in which they can thrive. Each child is different, so we will work closely with you to find the best way to meet their individual needs.

**“I love the person I have become since fostering for Tree House Care... I feel I have a purpose in life. What I do is appreciated and nothing is too much trouble for Tree House.”**

*One of our Tree House foster carers*



### Training begins

Your pre-approval training includes a 'preparation to foster' training course where you will meet some of our existing foster carers.

You may be paired up with one of these carers as your Foster Carer Mentor. We encourage you to ask your mentor as many questions as possible. They will always be honest and tell you the good, the bad and the ugly of fostering! It's important you have as much information as possible to make sure fostering is right for you.

### Go to panel

To become a registered foster carer, we must present your Home Study assessment to a panel of independent professionals with a wide experience of children, who then consider your application.

You and your assessment worker will attend the meeting to answer any questions they may have. Don't worry, you'll be prepared and supported throughout, and we wouldn't take you to panel if we didn't believe fostering was right for you!

### Approval

Hopefully, you'll hear some good news about your approval in a couple of weeks and we will start getting you ready for fostering. Your training and support won't end there, you'll have ongoing face-to-face and online training, monthly support groups and the opportunity to meet with our Trauma and Attachment Therapist regularly.

**And that's it... you're ready to start your journey into fostering!**

**“All panel members were kind and welcoming and helped me to feel at ease. I was given ample opportunity to share my views overall and in response to direct questions. Panel's feedback was positive and it was nice to hear the views that were shared about me, my application and my future as a foster carer.”**

*A recently approved foster carer*



[click here](#)



# Why choose Tree House Care?

When you become a foster carer with Tree House Care, you are welcomed into a small, supportive team who has been providing outstanding care for over 20 years.

Although we are small, our aspirations are big! We provide high levels of pay, foster training and support to enable our foster carers to focus on the most important thing, doing the right thing for our children.

## Pay

At Tree House Care, we don't rush recruitment — there are no fast tracks or shortcuts. This means that we recruit the very best people – people who are passionate, caring and prepared to work hard and achieve their potential as excellent foster carers.

We pay a higher weekly allowance than the recommended national minimum, as well as a number of additional payments throughout the year. This can include Christmas and birthday allowances, mileage payments, long service awards and 'pay-to-train' payments.

At Tree House Care we recognise the skills of our foster carers by having one high rate of pay for everyone. We don't discriminate based on the ages of the children cared for or the number of years of experience you have, as we trust that all of our carers provide the same outstanding level of care, regardless of the situation. You'll also be happy to hear that this payment, referred to as a fostering allowance, is tax-free for most people and doesn't affect any benefits you receive.

For up-to-date information  
on everything finance

[click here](#)



**At Tree House Care we support our carers so that they can support our children**

## Training and Support

Becoming a foster carer can be a daunting decision and you will probably have many questions. We often hear that people worry about how they will be supported and what training they will receive. One of the benefits of joining a local agency like Tree House Care is that you will become a part of a community of foster carers. We know every one of our foster carers personally and believe we can only do what we do by working together.

We provide our foster carers with the highest standard of therapeutic training. We also provide 24/7 access to our support to make sure you feel confident in your ability to deliver the best care.

We believe that providing our foster carers with the training, support and financial incentives needed to forge a rewarding career creates the best environment for successful, stable homes.





# Some questions you might have



## Who can foster?

We're always on the lookout for kind and compassionate people to join us in doing the right thing for our children. We're not looking for saints — our foster carers are just ordinary people who want to make a difference. As long as you have a spare bedroom, do not have offences against children, and are fit and healthy, very little would count you out.

- married
- single
- living together
- gay
- straight
- homeowner
- renting
- employed
- unemployed



Try our online quiz to see if you could foster

[click here](#)



## Can I foster if I already have children?

Many foster carers have children of their own. However, it is important to understand that fostering does have an impact on your own family dynamics.

As your own children will have to share you with a foster child, which may be quite challenging, we advise new applicants to wait until their own children are settled in secondary school.



## Can I work and be a foster carer?

Foster children need a high level of care and support and so it's important that at least one foster carer is at home full-time. However, if you're working at present, we wouldn't expect you to give up work until your foster child is due to arrive at your home.



## Can I still receive benefits when I foster?

As a self-employed foster carer, you'll still be eligible to claim most state benefits and any means-tested benefits won't class your fostering allowance as income. You'll be able to claim child benefit for your own children, but not for any child you're receiving fostering allowance for.



## Can I transfer to Tree House Care?

Yes! If you're already a foster carer, registered with a local authority or another independent agency, we make transferring to Tree House Care simple. We do all the behind-the-scenes paperwork, liaising with local authorities and agencies to ensure everything runs smoothly, so you can get on with being a first-rate foster carer. The process takes around 4-6 months, during which time you can get a feel for who we are

as an agency and speak to our existing carers, many of whom have transferred themselves!

We're confident that you'll find transferring to Tree House Care a great decision, and you'll appreciate our therapeutic focus, close, supportive atmosphere and generous benefits package — we guarantee you'll never lose out by transferring to Tree House Care.





We hope you've found this guide useful and it's given you plenty to think about.

## What next?

If you've not already, fill in our enquiry form and one of our friendly team will be in touch.

**Your first step to making a difference to a child's life starts here!**

[click here to fill in your online enquiry](#)

Get in touch

**0800 012 6507**

**[www.treehousecare.org](http://www.treehousecare.org)**

**[enquiries@treehousecare.org](mailto:enquiries@treehousecare.org)**

**[f @Treehousecarefostering](#)**

Lincolnshire

Tree House Care, The Old Vicarage, 17 Heneage Road,  
Grimsby, DN32 9DZ

Yorkshire

Tree House Care, Unit 14, Ebor Court, Malton Way,  
Adwick le Street, Doncaster, DN6 7FE

