

Here are some important people you can contact

1. You can talk to your social worker, your foster carer or somebody you know that you can trust.

2. It is your Independent Reviewing Officer's job to make sure that your views are heard. You can contact him or her by calling Tel: 0247683 3443 or email: Safeguardingchildrensgcsx@coventry.gcsx.gov.uk

3. To get an advocate or independent visitor contact Barnardo's Coventry and Warwickshire Children's Rights service on Tel: 024 7637 2596 or visit <http://www.barnardos.org.uk/>

4. If you would like to make a complaint you can contact our Complaints Coordinator on Tel: 02476833462

5. If you still do not think that your complaint has been dealt with fairly you can contact: The Local Government Ombudsman by writing to PO Box 4771, Coventry, CV4 0EH or call Tel: 0845 602 1983.

6. The Children's Commissioner can help you say what you feel and provide advice independent of the Children's Service, call Tel: 020 77 838 330

7. Ofsted is responsible for inspecting the Adoption and Fostering service and making sure that we are all doing what we should for you. Write to Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester. M1 2WD or call Tel: 03001231231 or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

8. To speak to a Councillor about any worries you have call Childline on Tel: 0800 1111 or visit: www.childline.org.uk

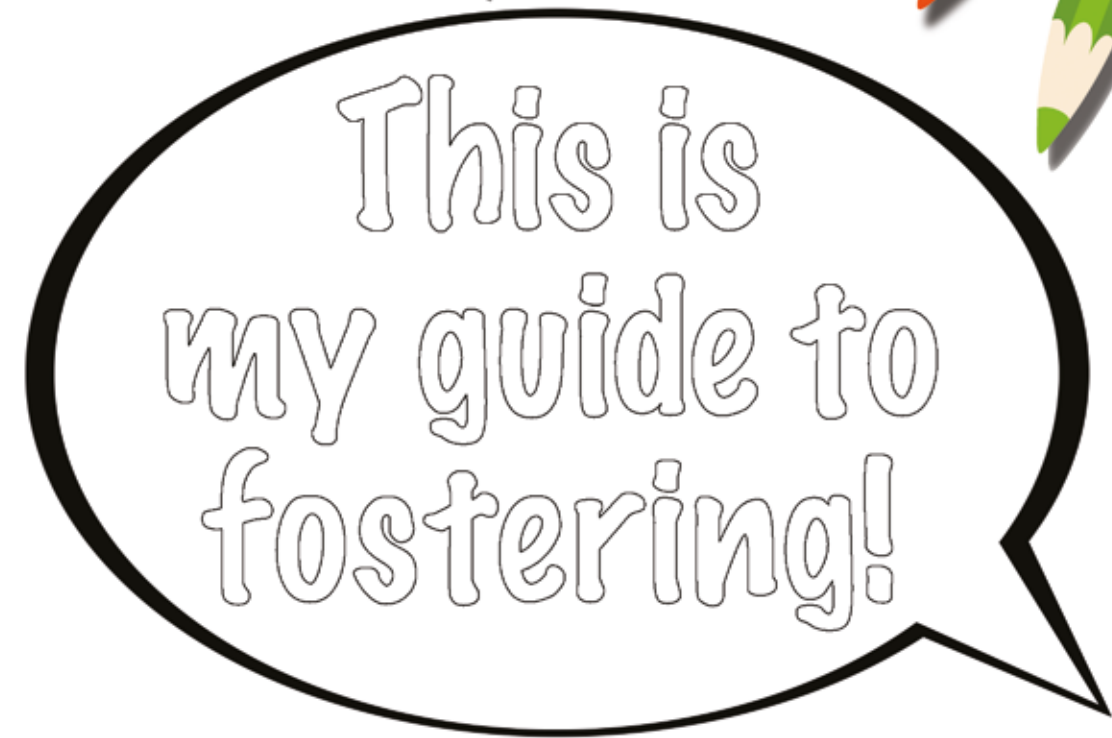
Coventry Children's Fostering Guide

Welcome to the children's guide to fostering, age 3 - 10 years

This booklet will tell you about the fostering service in Coventry so you know what to expect when you are in foster care



Colour this page in



This is
my guide to
fostering!

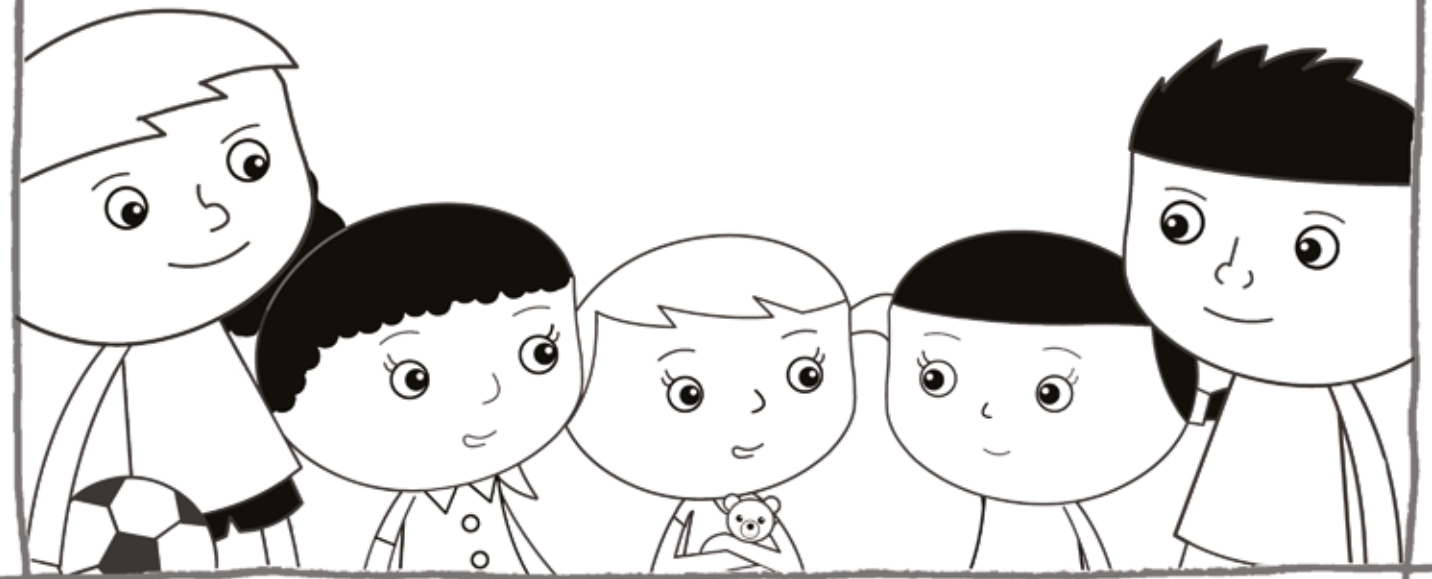
My name is

I am **years old**

I live at

My favourite thing to do is

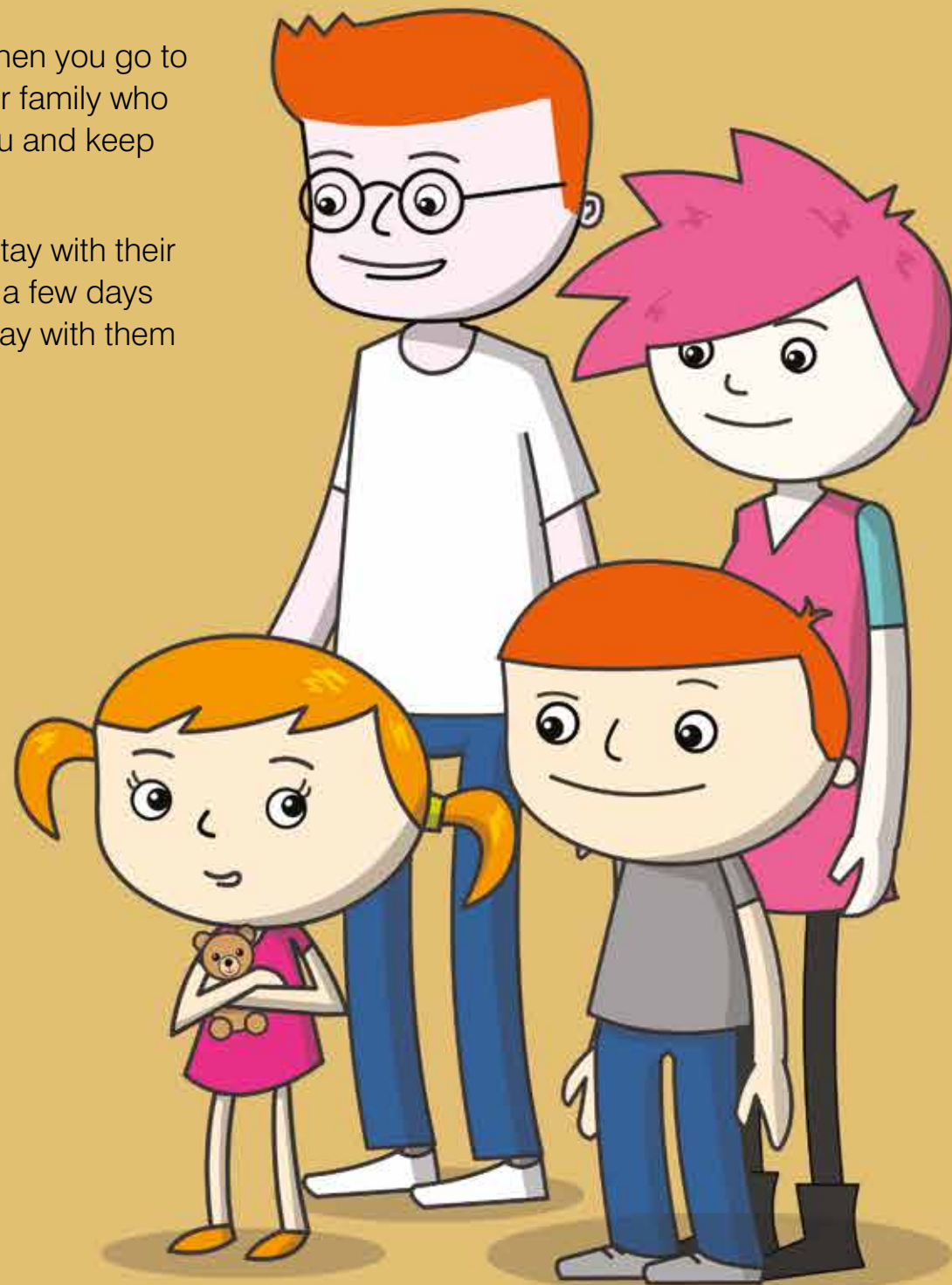
My favourite meal is





What is foster care?

- Foster care is when you go to stay with another family who will look after you and keep you safe.
- Some children stay with their foster carers for a few days other children stay with them for longer.



Why am I in foster care?



- There are different reasons why children come into foster care. Sometimes it is because your parents are not able to look after you properly. Sometimes parents are too ill to look after children or sometimes it is because it is not safe for children to live at home.

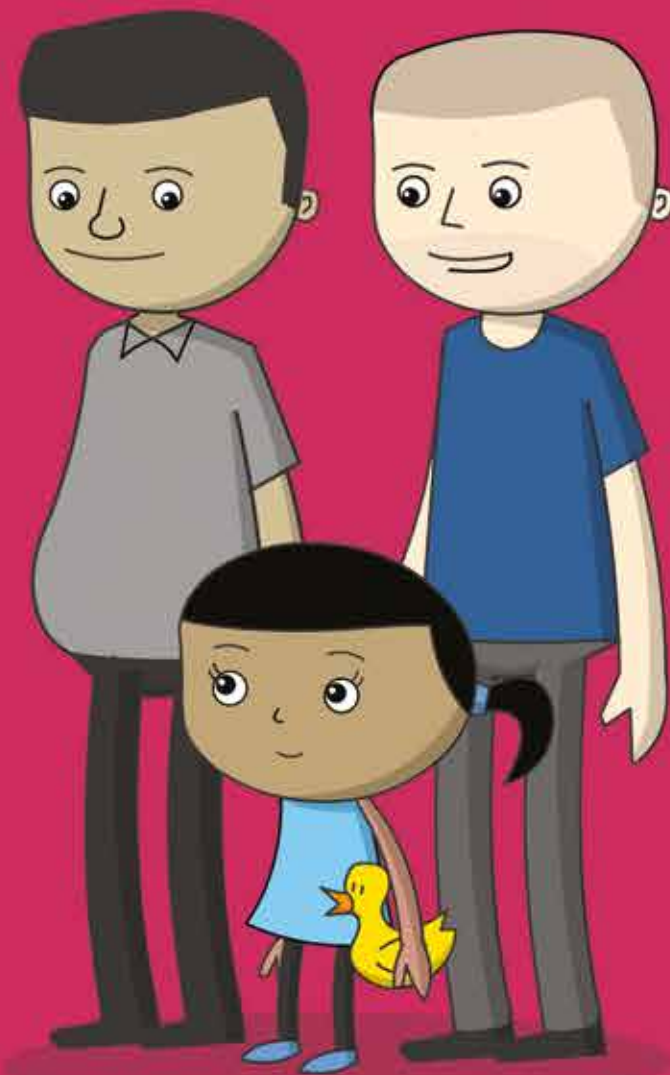


What are foster carers?

- Foster carers are grown-ups that go to a foster carer school to learn how to look after children.
- Foster carers look after children as part of their own family. Each foster family is different. Some foster families have one or two parents, some have their own children or may look after other children as well as you.

My favourite tv show is...

These are my Foster Carers, their names are...



What is a social worker?

- A social worker is a grown-up who helps you and your family sort out any problems.
- Your social worker will make sure that you are safe and cared for.
- You can ask your social worker any questions about living away from your family and what will happen next, while you are in care.
- If you are unhappy, you can talk to your social worker.

This is my social worker her/his name is...



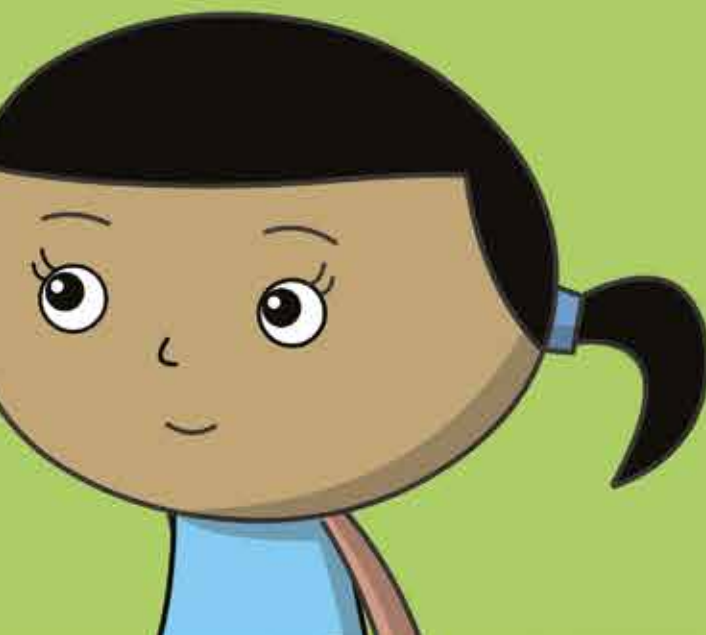


What sort of things will my foster carers do for me?

They will:

- Listen to you.
- Make sure that you are safe and cared for.
- Help, support and respect you.
- Make you feel part of the family by doing fun things with you.
- Take you to school.
- Take you to the dentists or doctors when you need to go.
- Help you follow your religion.
- Take you to meet your family at contact.
- Celebrate your birthday and special days.
- Support you at important meetings.

What I like doing with my foster carers...



Family Rules:

All families have rules so that you are kept safe and so that the family home runs smoothly.

When you join your foster carer family, your foster carer will tell you what these basic rules are.

Your foster carer will expect you to:

- Be polite and show respect to everyone.
- Join in the family meals and activities.
- Attend school regularly.
- Come home straight from school so your foster carers know where you are.
- Stick to rules that the families live by.
- Respect the property of others.
- Not take other peoples things without asking first.
- Don't bully people or hit others.
- Do your school home work.

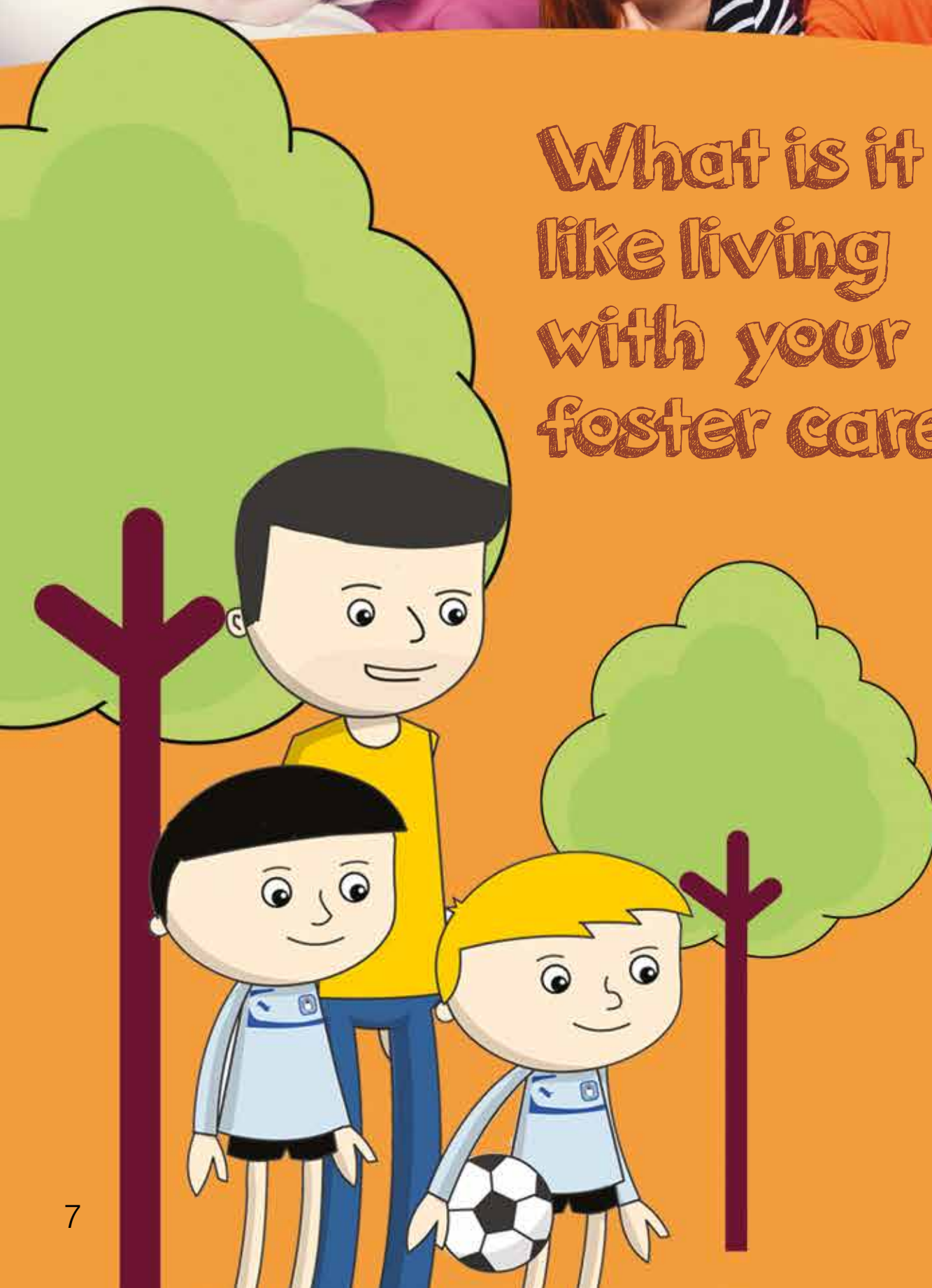
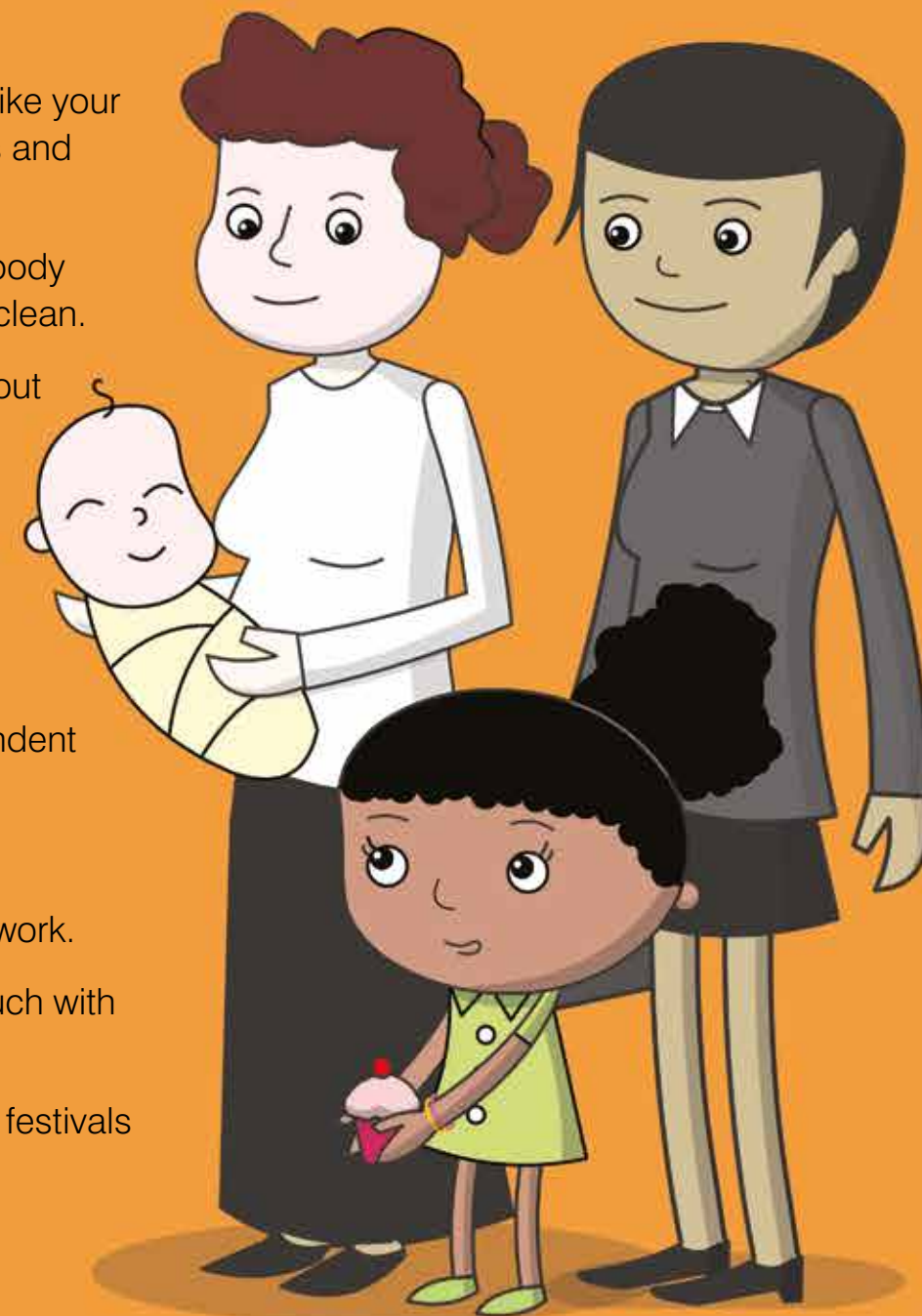
My rules are...

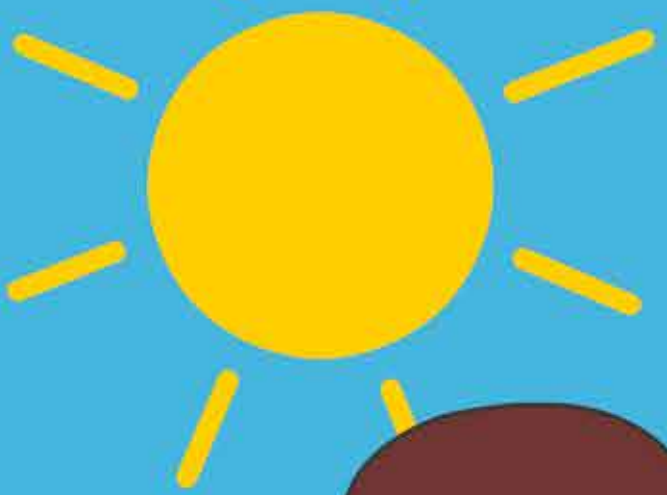


What is it like living with your foster carers?

Your foster carers will make sure that you:

- Have a bedroom of your own or shared with other children.
- Have space for your things like your books, toys, photos, clothes and shoes.
- Have things like shampoo, body lotion and a flannel to keep clean.
- Have someone to talk to about your wishes and feelings. Your foster carers will listen to you and check that you are ok and happy to live with them.
- Meet your social worker, children's guardian, independent visitor or solicitor.
- Have some pocket money.
- Have help with your school work.
- Have a chance to stay in touch with your friends and family.
- Celebrate your birthday and festivals like Christmas, Eid or Diwali.





Your Questions



Can I see my friends?

Foster carers will do all they can to help you stay in touch with your friends and help you to make new friends.

Will I go to the same school?

Most children go to the same school. If you are going to stay with your foster carer for a long time and your school is far away you may be able to change to a school that is nearer and easier to get to. Your social worker will talk to you about this.

Will I see my parents?

It is natural for you to miss your family. Most children in foster care will keep in touch with their family by talking to them over the phone, writing to them or by seeing them in person. Your social worker will talk to you about this.

Do I get Pocket money?

Yes, when you are in foster care you will get pocket money for you to spend on treats like games and books or you can save it in a bank. Your foster carer and social worker will tell you how much pocket money you will get.



This is me and my foster family



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