



Step Across to Fostering



What is Step Across to Fostering?

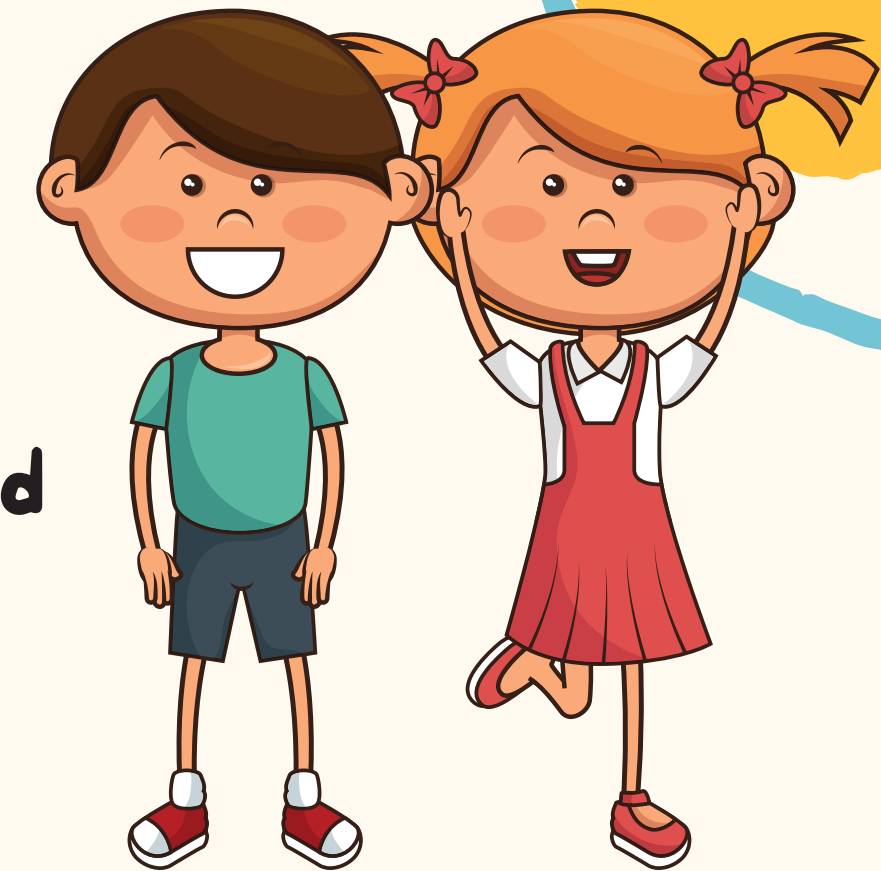
- Step Across to Fostering involves supporting children who are in residential care to find a forever family
- Why are children placed into residential care?
Sometimes a child or young person needs the type of environment that only residential children's homes can provide



QUESTION

Who are these children and young people?

- These are children and young people from a range of backgrounds and ages. The age range of these children and young people are between 8 and 16 years.
- Each child/young person will bring their own individual needs and strengths.
- Approach to their needs will be common to all types of fostering, but it will require a little bit more skills.



QUESTION

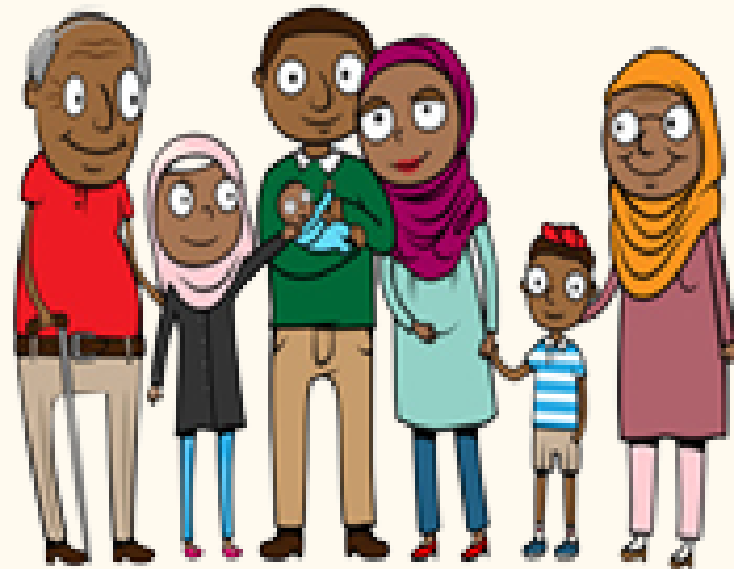
There are many different types of Fostering but Step Across aims to achieve permanence for a child.

Long-term: Usually the aim of step across is to achieve a forever home for the child or young person. So that they can feel settled, safe and secure within a family

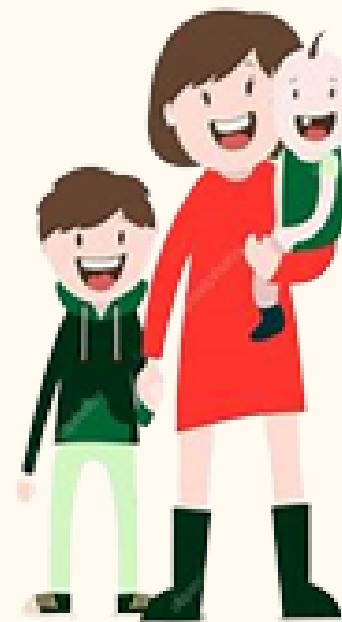


QUESTION

Who can offer Step Across placements?



A FAMILY THAT FOSTERS?

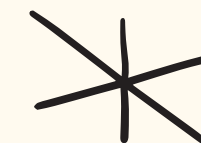


SINGLE CARERS- MALE OR FEMALE?



Research suggests that if a child is moving to a foster home from residential, it helps if:

- The carer can manage behaviours
- The carer can Set Goals
- The carer has a spare bedroom room
- The carer can work in partnership with others
- The carer recognises that these children could have some additional emotional needs.
- The carer's home offers a loving, stable, family environment
- The carer has the patience
- The carer is positive in practical ways
- The carer can commit time and energy
- The Carer understands these children will have experienced neglect, and abuse and experienced multiple moves and will be coming from a residential setting



Who are Involved?

- UK Fostering's SSW
- Residential home key worker
- IRO
- Support Worker
- School
- CAMHS
- Social Work Managers
- Social Worker



Interested?

If you were interested in this type of fostering, there would be opportunities to get to know more about the child/young person, meet them and introductions would be set at an acceptable pace for the child to adjust



The Step Across matching process

- Stage 1

Child's information is shared with carer, carer's profile is shared with social worker. If carer is interested in finding out more about the child....

- Stage 2

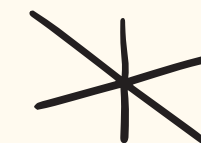
Information Sharing meeting Foster carer gets the opportunity to meet social worker, residential home manager/key worker and School to find out more about the child. If carer is happy to pursue looking after the child....

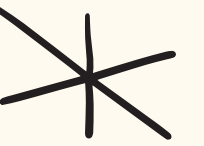
- Stage 3

Introduction We would arrange for the carer and their family to meet the child. These meets will be planned, progressed at the child's pace and they will take place over a period of 4 to 5 weeks, sometimes sooner.

- Stage 4

Once all goes well, and both child/young person and carer are happy to live together, at the end of the introduction period the child moves in.



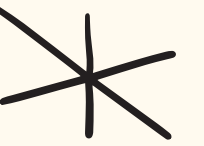


Support:

There will be a range of support available to you and the child/young person:

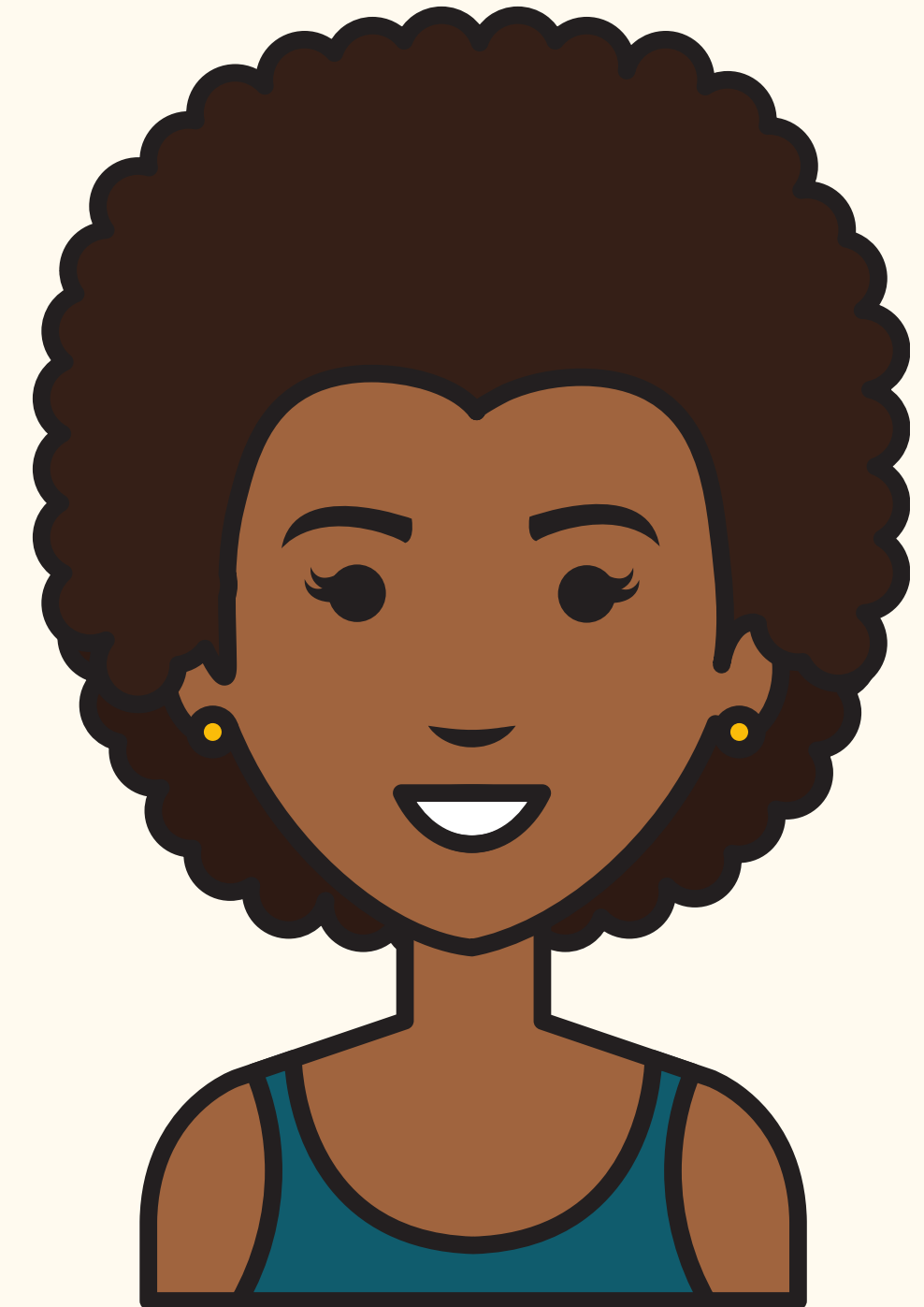
- You will have your very own SSW as well as the child will have their SW.
- The child's Psychologist will work with you directly to offer advice and guidance on how to manage the child's emotional needs.
- The agency will appoint a support worker to the child.
- The child's school would be onboard to offer their support.
- A variety of trainings and support groups will be available for you to access.
- Your child/young person could also join the agency's Children and Young People's Council.





Hi, I am Jackie and I am a Step Across to Fostering Foster Carer with UK Fostering. I have been fostering for a few years now. Never judge a child or young person by the information on paper, it is about remembering why you came into fostering in the first place. All children and young people could do with unconditional love, genuine care and someone to fight their corner. I embrace all of these when I foster. It is so rewarding to see the milestones these children can achieve with your support. I see them in my child every day.

You can achieve this too.
Just give Step Across to Fostering a go.



Do you want to become a Foster Care like me?

If you are interested in becoming a Step Across to Fostering Foster Carer, contact UK Fostering on

0345 222 0518 or email: info@ukfostering.org.uk

Or have a chat with them via Facebook:
facebook.com/ukfosteringagency or

visit the website at www.ukfostering.org.uk

