



# Parent and Child Fostering Scheme

## Foster Carers' Task Description

### Aim of the Parent and Child Fostering Scheme:

To provide home-based assessment and support of a parent's ability to safeguard and promote the welfare of her or his child, in order to inform decision-making about future support services or intervention through care proceedings.

### Parent and Child Scheme Foster Carers:

- Support a parent and their child/ren in your home for a 12 week assessment programme
- Work intensively with only one family group at a time and do not take other task-centred child/ren's placements
- Enable, guide and support parents to develop their skills in caring for their child as independently as possible, for assessment placements using a standardised Parenting Skills Development Programme
- Take ultimate responsibility for the child's basic needs and safety should the parent fail to do this
- Report any child care or safeguarding concerns immediately to the child's social worker
- Adhere to the role and task expectations set out in the placement agreement or review meetings
- Keep detailed records and communicate objectively and fully any observations made (foster carers who take assessment placements use structured formats for recording)
- Make and evidence judgments about both the particular children's needs and their parents' abilities in relation to these, which will be included within the wider assessment of parenting and can be presented to the Family Court, as required



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- Work closely with Children's Social Care and other agencies As relevant and practicable, assist parent(s) who are moving on with their child/ren to make a successful transition, e.g. supporting them to address particular issues identified in the assessment or to access services, etc
- Make a commitment to additional training requirements and monthly support and development group meetings.

## Limits of approval:

**Because of the demanding nature of parent and child fostering, special care is needed to ensure that parent and child fostering households can provide adequate supervision to parent and child placements.**

To this end, all parent and child fostering households will take only one family group into their home at a time. They will not be approved to take other foster placements, apart from the possibility of providing respite placements in intervals between parent and child placements.

If a parent and child placement has come to an end but the child is remaining with the foster carer for a period (to enable a planned move), then the household can be used for an additional parent and child placement, as long as a risk assessment indicates that:

- 1) this would not create unacceptable risks for the placed child, and
- 2) the demands of that child's care would not result in lack of capacity by the foster carer to handle the demands of the proposed parent and child placement.

## Want to find out more?

If you would like to have a discussion about the Parent and Child Fostering Scheme or any other type of fostering we would be happy to hear from you. Please contact:

Lorna Rook, Consortium Co-ordinator  
 phone: **07980 545 602**  
 email: **[lorna.rook@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:lorna.rook@hackney.gov.uk)**  
 web: **[www.fosteringnorthlondon.co.uk](http://www.fosteringnorthlondon.co.uk)**  
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