What support would I receive?

We have an experienced and knowledgeable team based across the county who are waiting to prepare, assess and support you through becoming an approved Family Link Carer.

- Once approved you will be allocated a social worker who will provide you with professional support, help and advice.
- Every child who has short breaks with Family Link Carers has his or her own Social Worker who will visit you and the child regularly.
- Carers receive an allowance to cover the cost of caring. These allowances are tax free and do not affect benefits.
- As well as the financial support, you will be provided with suitable bedroom furniture, bedding and equipment should this be required for the child.

What our Family Link Foster Carers say

Pauline, Family Link Carer
“For the past five years my husband and I have been caring for a boy with special needs, one weekend per month. It gives his Mum a well earned break, but is good for him too. It’s been an amazing experience to watch him grow.”

Julie, Family Link Carer
“Our own children were getting to an age where they were becoming more independent and we felt it was the right time for us to consider fostering. Family Link was perfect for us as we were interested in supporting a child with a disability but due to our busy lifestyles we couldn’t commit to a full time placement.”

Find out more about fostering with us at:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/fostering

Call us to find out more 0800 169 2061
Text ‘foster’ to 60003
Search for Staffs Adoption and Fostering
@StaffordshireCC

Could you make a difference with Family Link?

Become a Family Link Foster Carer and support disabled children and their families by providing regular short breaks.

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/fostering
Who may use Family Link?

Children and young people up to the age of eighteen years who have a learning disability, developmental delay or physical disability.

What skills would I need?

If you have time, energy, patience and a genuine desire to help a child with a disability. You will also need a spare bedroom in your home.

Would I get paid?

If supporting a child on a part time basis, for example one weekend each month, you will receive an allowance for their stay. Some Family Link Carers progress to offering short breaks full time for which they receive a generous weekly payment.

Do I need any special training?

We will assist you to access all of the training you will need without incurring any costs yourself.

What is Family Link Fostering?

Family Link Foster Carers provide regular short breaks for a child or young person with a disability. This may be for one weekend a month, but generally is a flexible arrangement to suit you, the child and their family.

Who benefits from Family Link?

The Children
- By widening their own experiences and helping children with a disability to develop.
- By having an opportunity to make new friends.
- By having the enjoyment of getting to know their own specially linked family.

The Parents
- By having the opportunity to 'take a break' from caring and 'recharge their batteries'.
- By being able to devote time to spend with other family members.
- By having time to pursue their own interests.

You... The Family Link Carer
- By having an opportunity to develop a lasting relationship with the child you are caring for.
- By knowing you are helping a family and providing a much needed and valued service.
- By becoming part of the Family Link Team, which will provide you with all aspects of the support you may need.

Could I be a Family Link Carer?

There are no ‘typical’ Family Link Carers. There are children of all ages and disabilities who need your help.

Whether you are single or have a partner and are with or without children, we welcome people from all backgrounds that reflect our communities.

Many of our Family Link Carers work full or part time. Whatever time you have to share may be just what a young person needs.

Some Family Link Carers may link with more than one child or carry out this service on a full time basis.