

Foster Care.

Is it right for
your organisation?



The purpose of this guide is to introduce organisations to foster care and provide information on what organisations need to consider BEFORE they decide to run a foster care programme. It does NOT equip organisations to deliver foster care. That requires further training, tailored directly to your organisation and your context.

What is Foster Care?



Foster Care is the English term for when a child is cared for by an adult or adults who:

- * are not biologically related to them
- * are ordinary people in the community living in their own home (rented or owned)
- * have been trained, approved and monitored in their role.
- * act as a parent would but under supervision of the foster care agency (your organisation*)

A **foster carer** is the person who provides the care. They do so on behalf of an organisation who recruit and assess them to determine if they are safe and suitable to care for children.

A **foster care agency** is the organisation providing the foster carers, monitoring, supporting and reviewing them to ensure the foster carer provides safe and suitable care to the children they look after.

Foster Care also occurs informally. This is where it happens organically in communities and parents and/or family members agree for a member of the community to act as the child's parent. This has been happening for centuries - more on that later...

Formal foster care - where foster carers are recruited, assessed and approved by an organisation, rather than the parents of the child - is simply a name given to the process.

You may use the term foster care to mean something different in your country and/or culture. That is totally ok! We're defining the way we use the term so you know exactly what we mean when we talk about foster care throughout this guide. You will see later, that we encourage you to use the terms & language that make the most sense in your context.

*we are using the term "organisation" to include Non Government Organisations (NGOs) and/or government departments or agencies.

What is the purpose of Foster Care?

Foster care provides a safe, alternative family to meet the emotional and physical needs of children who can't live with their birth family.

Ideally, the foster care family is based within the child's community and shares their culture, religion and language to best support the child's developing sense of identity and belonging.



A larger system

To operate successfully, foster care needs to be one part of a much larger system of child protection and care.

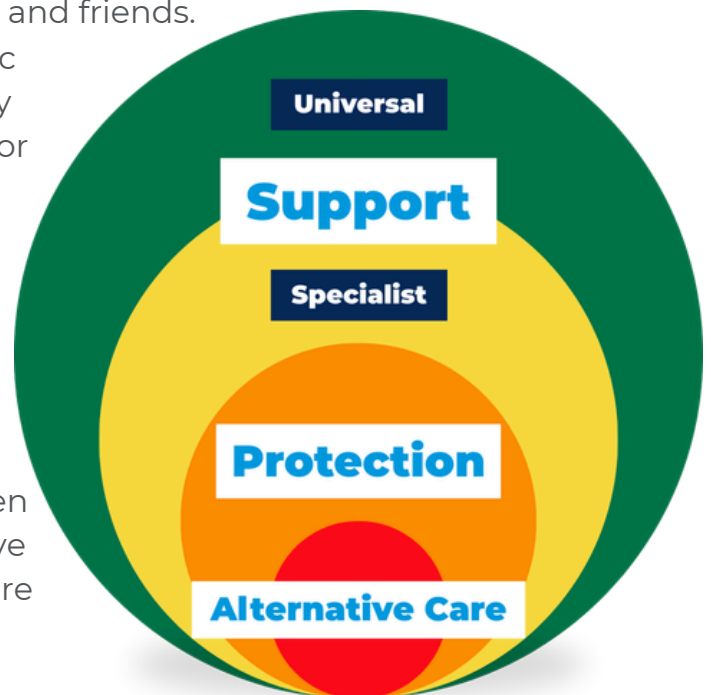
At SFAC, we use our **Safeguarding Services model** to help think about this wider system.

The outer **green** circle references the parts of the system that are universally available in the community. This might include things like education and/or healthcare and your network of family and friends.

The **yellow** ring indicates more specific family support programmes offered by government, community groups and/or NGOs.

Orange is where child protection services step in because there are concerns that a child is unsafe - this could be government, judges or community organisations.

The small **red** circle is where it has been decided that children can no longer live with their biological parents and require "alternative care"



SFAC's Safeguarding Services Model

What Foster Care is NOT

Sometimes you can hear the term foster home used in relation to a children's home or children's village. To avoid confusion, at SFAC we only use the term "foster care" to refer to ordinary people living in their own home (rented or owned), with their own family (or on their own), in their community providing care to a child who is has no connection to them.

We also distinguish between kinship care and foster care. Kinship care is when a person caring for a child is part of their wider family (either biologically related or through marriage) or connected in some other way - e.g. a close family friend.

Foster care also differs from adoption and guardianship in that, unless your country's laws say otherwise, either the government, courts or birth family retain legal responsibility for the child.

Is Foster Care a Western Concept?

A Global Response

While the term "foster care" is English in origin, the concept and practice of foster care is not. It has existed in all cultures and societies since time began. There are numerous accounts, from ancient texts, faiths, storybooks and languages, demonstrating that looking after someone else's child is not a new idea.

We asked some of the SFAC team and a few of our partner organisations to tell us about the language and history of foster care in their contexts.

Uganda



Joseph shared his experiences in Uganda and Kenya

In Uganda among the Baganda, foster care is known as "**okwola**." If we unpack okwola, it has specific approaches that speak to African traditional ways of caring for children who are not living with their biological families.



They also have statements like “**omukuzza**” (specially appointed to raise the children of the deceased parents), other words include “**kojja**”, “**senga**” and “**jajja**,” all of which interpret the extended family and kinship care among the Baganda.

Kenya



In Kenya among the Kikuyu, they have “**kurera mwana wa mundu ungi**”, alongside other practices like “**nyumba kumi**”, “**mbali ya baba**” - all referring to traditional approaches of caring for children in family as mechanisms of protecting and safeguarding children at risk.

Zimbabwe



Isabel gave us a Zimbabwean perspective.

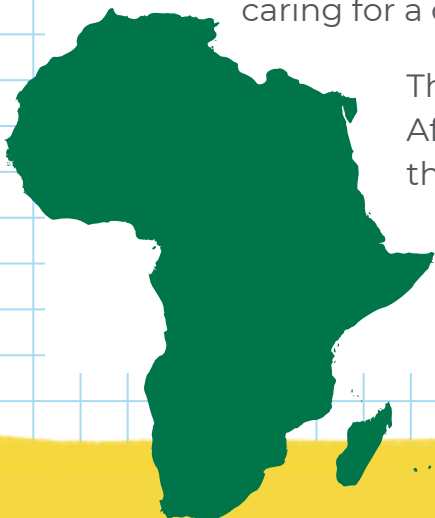
In Zimbabwe, “**Musaravapana**” locally means; **he who remains with the children**, and is a traditional child protection mechanism among the Shona tribes.

“**Zunde raMambo**” is another child protection practice among the Shona and carries the meaning;

the Chief’s in charge of children.

Literally, the chief is the official guardian of all orphaned children.

Familiar African sayings such as ‘**it takes a village to raise a child**’ and ‘**I am because you are**’ all indicate the interconnectedness of culture with caring for a child.



They illustrate that community is key and highlight that Africans have been using so called “foster care” long before the English came up with the term.

Myanmar



Daniel from Global Child Advocates shared this with us:

“Long before modern child welfare systems were introduced, families and communities in Myanmar practiced caring for vulnerable children as a natural expression of love, responsibility, and spiritual duty. Welcoming and nurturing a nonbiological child has always been present within Myanmar’s cultural and faith traditions.

Extended families routinely took in orphaned relatives and children in need, reflecting deeply rooted values of compassion, hospitality, and communal responsibility.

*In Myanmar, fostered and adopted children are commonly referred to as **(mway-za tha-tha-mi)**, a term that encompasses both formal adoption and informal caregiving arrangements. This language itself reflects a long-standing social understanding that a child can fully belong within a family beyond biological ties.”*

Morocco



The team at Fape in Morocco told us about the history, language and cultural context of “foster care” and about how they are developing formalised foster care programmes based on the cultural practices that have existed for centuries.

Foster Care in Moroccan Culture

Moroccan social, religious, and legal traditions offer a culturally grounded framework for a foster-care model based on kafala, kinship solidarity, and community legitimacy. In Morocco, non-biological child care has traditionally been structured through extended family integration and communal obligation rather than institutional replacement, rendering family care a socially comprehensible and ethically esteemed practice. Kafala is a legally recognized system of guardianship that keeps a child’s lineage and identity intact instead of creating full filiation. It is the main legal framework for alternative care and shapes what families, institutions, and religious authorities think are socially acceptable ways to take in a child.

This legal-cultural model is in line with long-standing family traditions in which grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins take care of children as a moral duty. This means that foster-care systems that support and formalize these pathways make sense.

Islamic ethical discourse further legitimizes this by making it a moral duty to protect orphans and sponsor vulnerable children, rather than just a charitable choice. At the same time, the non-filiative nature of kafala creates structural gaps in inheritance rights, civil documentation, and long-term legal security. A culturally sensitive foster-care model can fill these gaps by using formalized guardianship agreements, clearer registration procedures, and guaranteed access to education and health services.

Strategically, this opens pathways for a hybrid system that builds on kin networks rather than replacing them, mobilizes religious and community leadership to normalize foster placements, supports kin carers economically and psychosocially, and institutionalizes professionally supervised, community-legitimate foster programs—transforming cultural values of family solidarity, religious duty, and collective responsibility into sustainable foundations for a modern, family-based child protection system.

Ghana & West Africa



Isaac has been looking into traditional forms of foster care and the language around it in his home country of Ghana and elsewhere in West Africa. He shared this with us:

Akans are a major tribe in **Ghana, Ivory Coast and some parts of Togo**. Amongst the Akans people, foster care is also inherent in the traditional system of inheritance called “Adedie”. Traditionally, when a member of the family dies a member of the family (“**Odiadeni**”) is appointed by the family to inherit the person. This Odiadeni takes ownership of everything that belonged to the late person including children. Therefore through this system kinship fostering and sometimes adoption occurs. Again, foster care is also inherent in communal systems. In traditional communities, child care and parenting was considered a communal responsibility because they believe it takes a village to raise a child (Frimpong-Manso, 2014).



Family is understood beyond the nuclear to the extent where neighbours consider themselves as family. Hence members of the community will own up to provide care and protection for children living within the community (Frimpong-Manso, 2014; Diriwari 2022).

This practice was enhanced by the compound housing structure which created a community of families that protected children within the compound houses (Laird, 2008). Further, it is strongly believed that neglecting the children of the dead can cause the spirit of the dead to reward a person with misfortune (Frimpong-Manso, 2014). Based on these factors it is common for community members to care for children of their friends and close acquaintances.

The **Hausa** people are predominant in **Nigeria and Niger**. However, the **Hausa language is spoken in many countries in West Africa including Ghana, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, and Togo** (Rambo, 2022). The term for foster care in Hausa is "**Riko**" which means to care for someone's child. Caring for a boy is known as "**Mariki**" while caring for a girl is known as "**Marikiya**" (Schildkrout, 1978).

Also, the **Baatombu** tribe found in **Northern Benin Republic**, have a practice where birth parents give their children to social parents (or foster parent), mostly members of a kin group, to show the strength of their social bond and social stability (Nnama-Okechukwu et al, 2023).

Paraguay



Anya Goertzen from PPF and shared about the value placed on family in Paraguay and how that value is shaping foster care there.

Paraguayan/Latino culture is centered around family, community support, and warm connections. The concept of family goes beyond biological ties—it includes close friends and neighbors, and a widespread custom of welcoming others with open arms into the home.

This cultural value which prioritizes family is a beautiful foundation on which kinship and foster care is being built within the community, as a means to provide stability and loving care to those in need. The tradition of hospitality and open-heartedness encourages families to embrace foster children as part of their extended family, enhancing the sense of belonging and security.

So, with that global context in mind, we encourage you to use whatever language and terminology makes the most sense in your culture and community.



Why choose safe family care?

Every child needs to BE safe and FEEL safe. This enables children to focus on the other important aspects of growing up. For most children a safe family is the environment most likely to result in children being and feeling safe, having a sense of belonging and the best chance to thrive.

Prioritising family care for children who can't safely live with their birth family is consistent with:

1 CHILD RIGHTS

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child says that children have the right to live with a family that cares for them.

Article 9

(in child friendly language developed by UNICEF)

“You have the right to live with your parent(s), unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live with a family who cares for you.”

2 What children say they want

While there is the occasional exception, children consistently say that if they cannot safely live with their biological parents they would prefer to live with another family who cares for them.

You can watch our founder, Mick, give a moving account of hearing this first hand on [SFAC's YouTube channel](#) - [“Mick's Story”](#)

3 Research

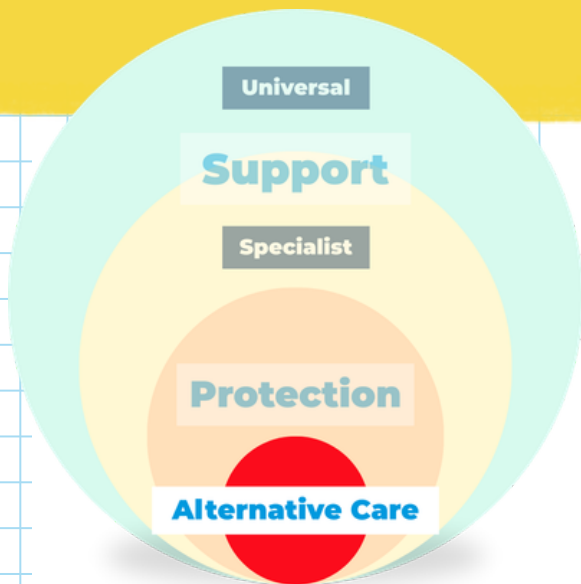
Studies show that safe, stable, trust-based, connected relationships with key adults in their lives are the most important need children have (alongside physical safety), and this is typically best achieved in a safe family home environment.

Research¹ also demonstrates that large children's homes and orphanages are not always the ideal place for children to grow up, especially long-term. Children growing up in institutions have a higher risk of experiencing abuse or neglect.

For many children foster care leads to improved outcomes when compared to children's homes. Studies demonstrate improvements in cognitive development and emotional wellbeing. Safe and effective foster care can also provide the experience of living in a family in the community allowing links to culture and community to be retained. while also reducing many of the disadvantages of growing up in a children's home.



¹ See reference list on page 29

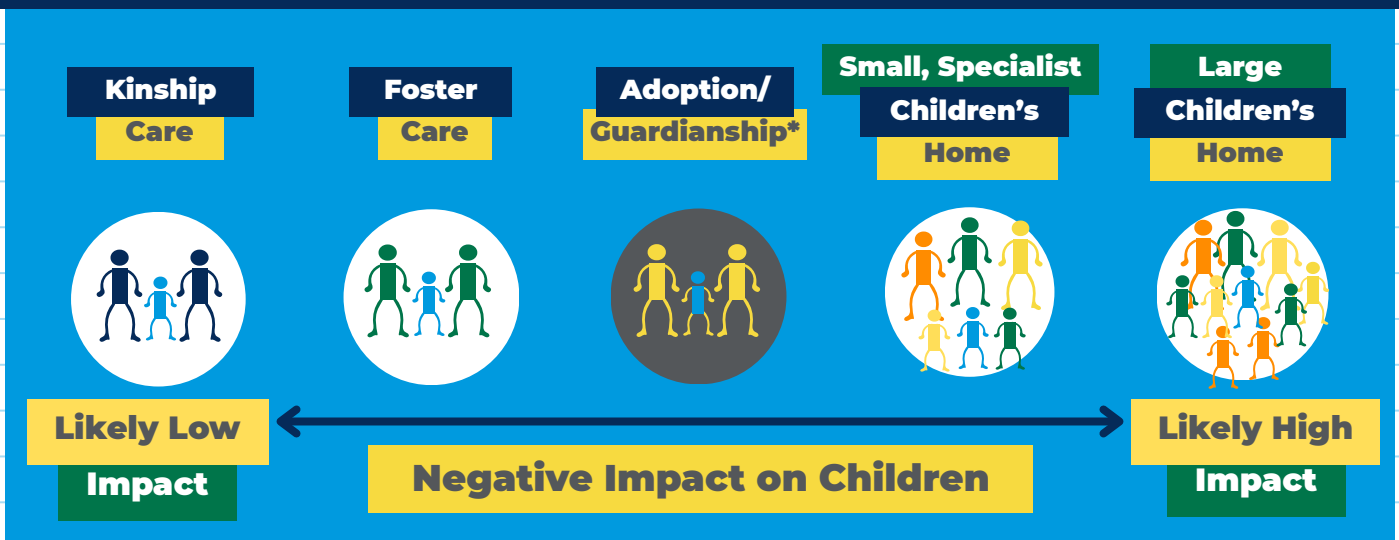


Let's return to the Safeguarding Services Model for a moment.

We're going to focus in on the red circle - the area where it has been decided that children can no longer live with their biological parents and require "alternative care"

Below you'll see a list of alternative care options for children. They are placed in order of how likely each option is to have a negative impact on children.

Alternative Care Options for Children



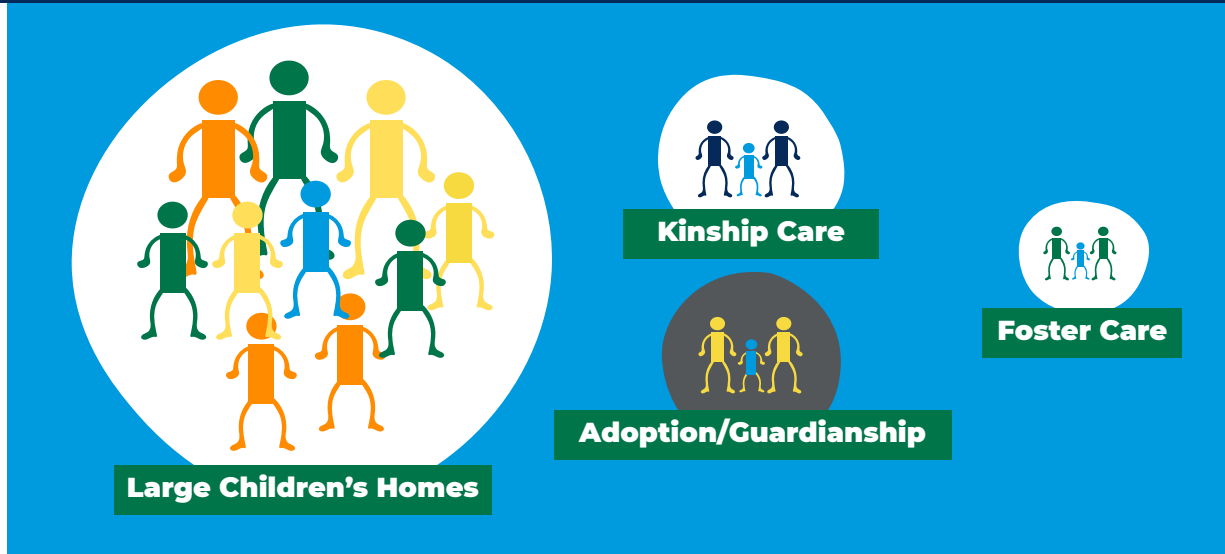
* In some countries, guardianship also occurs on a temporary basis. In this graphic temporary guardianship would sit alongside foster care instead of adoption..

One of the goals of developing a good alternative care system is to ensure that the number of places available to children in each option reflects the impact those options are likely to have on a child.

At the moment, many countries' alternative care systems centre around large children's homes. They likely have some kinship care and adoption happening officially or unofficially and perhaps the occasional small foster care programme. Small, specialist children's homes probably don't exist.

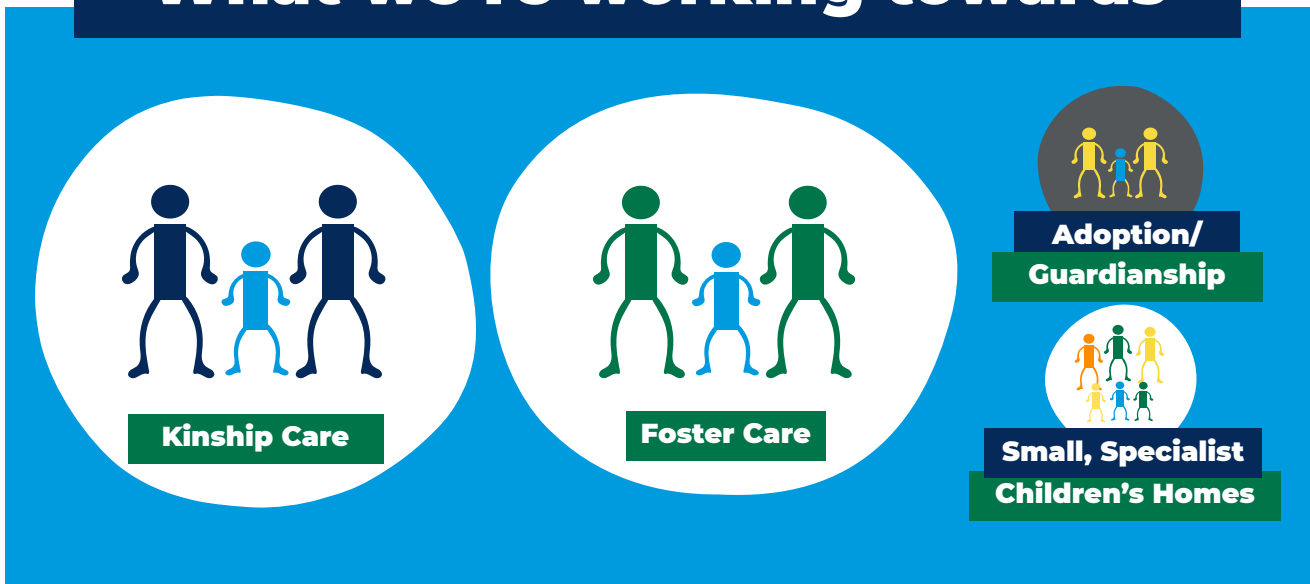
The illustration on the next page illustrates this system:

Current Alternative Care Systems



If we want to ensure that children requiring alternative care are given the best possible chance to thrive, then we need to develop an alternative care system that prioritises family care.

What we're working towards



Systems like this focus on family care while also acknowledging that, for some children, family care won't be the right option. In this situation, small children's homes with specially trained staff are needed.

With all that in mind, let's return to exploring foster care in more detail.

Types of Foster Care

There are several types of Foster Care your organisation could provide. Some foster care agencies provide all the options and others specialise in one or two. Each type of foster care will require different processes and carers will need to be trained and prepared slightly differently depending on which type of foster care they feel willing and/or able to provide.

Emergency

Emergency foster care is provided when a child requires care with minimal notice and little information available. Emergency care is only provided for a short period of time while assessments are carried out to decide if the child needs to remain in care.

It's used as an immediate, temporary place of safety.

Processes matching the right child to the right foster carer are minimal, rarely going beyond age, gender and any obvious or significant health needs

Carers providing emergency need to be prepared to look after children with minimal information. They also need to understand that the child will only be with them for a short time.

Short term

In short term foster care, a child lives with the foster carers for anywhere from a few days up to around two years whilst assessments are conducted to determine where the child will receive the best care in the long term. Short term foster care provides opportunities for parents to make changes, family tracing to happen, identifying potential adoptive or guardian families or determining that long term foster care will be the best option for that child.

Short term foster carers need to be prepared for the child to leave them and to work with the child with little information initially. They also need to be willing to work with the organisation to help them get to know the child by recording and sharing information.



In short term foster care, the matching process is still minimal but slightly more than in an emergency

Long term

In long term foster care a child is in a stable placement with the carers until they become an adult. They may, however, be reunited with their biological family. Examples of why this might occur include because the biological parents have made significant changes or because family members had been traced.

Carers need to be willing to look after the child for many years while also understanding that the child may leave their care.

Long term foster care involves detailed matching processes. The organisation should know the child well and be looking to give them them chance to thrive in by matching them with the available foster family best able to meet their unique needs.

Sometimes, long term foster care can be a better option for a child than adoption or guardianship or even moving back to family for a variety of reasons and sometimes long term foster carers may become adoptive/guardian carers.

Respite

Respite care (sometimes called “short breaks”) can be provided to children living either with their biological family or children living in foster care or adoption/guardianship.

It is intended to give carers a rest so they can continue to provide long term care. It is mainly used for children who have significant health needs requiring care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is so carers can have a physical, emotional and mental rest. It also gives them time to do administrative or life tasks that can't be done while they are providing care. Respite care happens multiple times throughout the year, often for a week at a time or for regular weekends. Ideally, the child goes to the same carer each time.



Matching processes for respite care are quite detailed because they need to meet child's needs and to co-ordinate well with the long term carers.

Carers need to understand that they are not the child's primary carers. They function a bit like a grandparent or aunt/uncle.

In all forms of foster care, a child may still be connected with their biological family. This could include visits, calls, and/or other forms of contact.

What is involved in setting up Foster Care?

Foster Care is a
SiMPLE
idea that is
COMPLEX
to implement.



So we know children are most likely to thrive in a safe family and foster care provides an alternative safe family for those children who cannot live with their biological parents due to a significant risk of harm.

Does that mean foster care is risk free?!

No!

Like all alternative care options, foster care provides no guarantee of safety, security or suitable care.

So how do we minimise the risk and give children the best chance of growing up in a safe, caring environment?

The answer is not very exciting but it is the most important part of any foster care programme:

**Good PROCESSES and SYSTEMS
are essential to ensuring
a Foster Care programme is
SAFE, SUITABLE & SUCCESSFUL.**

We developed our 5 Pillar Model of Good Child Care and Protection Practice to help organisations think through what systems and processes their programmes need to give the children in their care the best chance of success.

*The “5 Pillar Model of Good Child Care and Protection Practice” is a lot to say and remember so we often refer to it as the “**Know the...**” model - you’re welcome to do the same!*

SFAC’s 5 Pillar Model of Good Child Care and Protection Practice



Know the:

- Child**
- Family**
- Community**
- Context**
- Organisation**

Let's explore what the model looks like when applied to foster care.

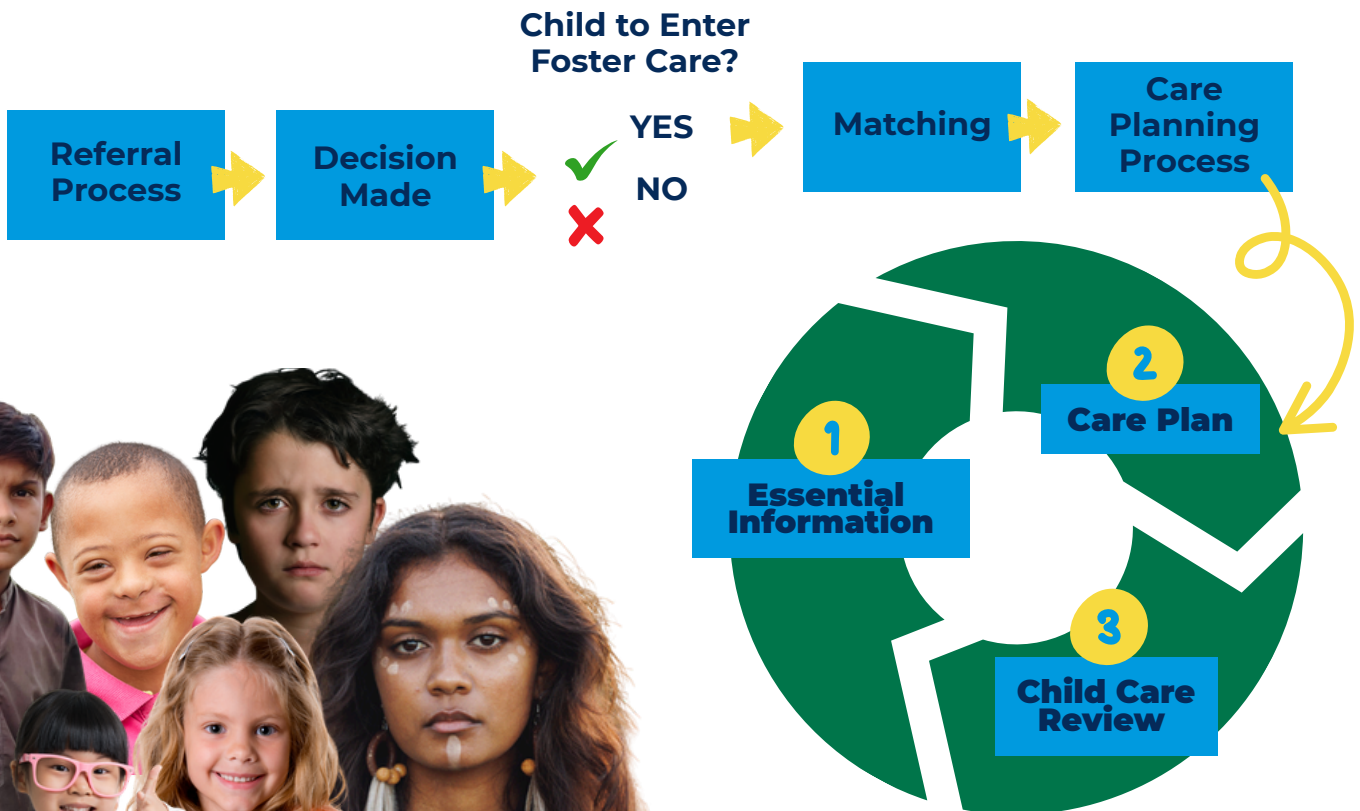
Remember, this is just a brief overview to help your organisation consider whether or not foster care is something you want to do. If you decided to go ahead, further training and support in each of these 5 pillars would be an essential next step.

Know the CHILD

Having good systems and processes in place for knowing the child ensures:

- * they only receive foster care if or when they need it
- * their safety & care
- * they are appropriately matched with the right carers

Know the Child A Process Summary



Know the Child

Referral Process

This process helps an organisation determine which children enter their programme and what steps are involved for a child to enter the organisation's care. The referral process may include an assessment of a child and family's situation or in other circumstances the government or courts may do this first.

Matching Process

This is the process of matching the right child with the right carer.



The Care Planning Process

Essential Information: a written record of everything a parent would know about their child

A **Care Plan** is a written record of what the organisation, foster carers and others will be doing to meet the child's unique needs. It is specific and includes Who, What, Where and When

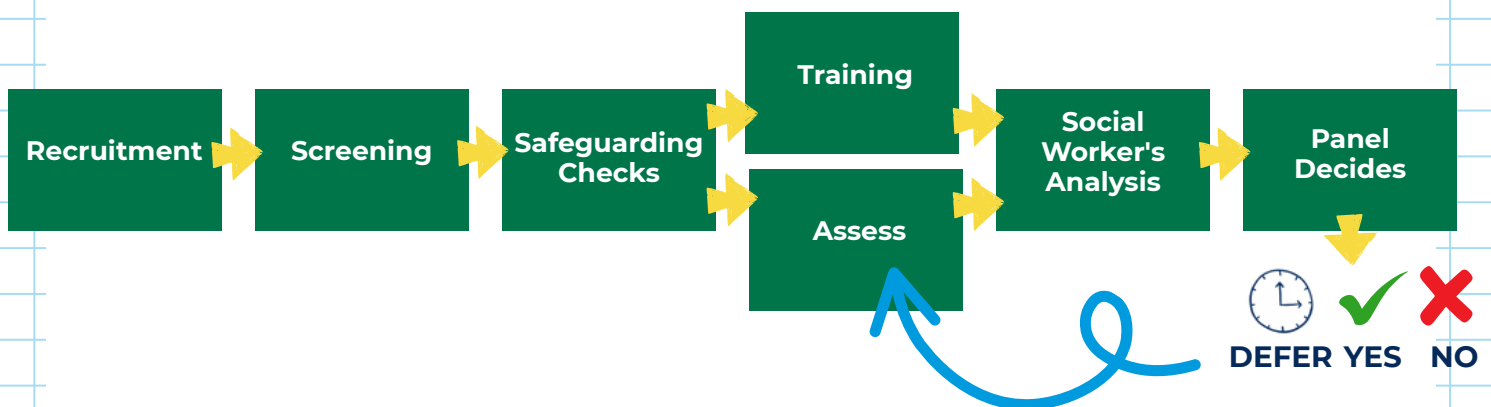
Child Care Review: updates both of the above records and checks whether the current care situation is continuing to meet the child's needs. It's an important step for an organisation in knowing how well the child's care needs are being met.

Know the FAMILY

- * Will they be safe carers for a child?
- * Which children are they suitable for?
- * What type of foster care can they provide?



Know the Family Recruitment and Assessment



The map above illustrates a process for identifying and assessing foster carers. Each step supports the others and involves its own processes and systems.

Recruitment

Consider who and where you want to recruit. Remember small numbers and a slow, steady pace is best! There are lots of different ways to recruit and they will vary according to your context.

Screening

A brief initial assessment to determine whether the applicant(s) meet your organisation's basic criteria and have a realistic chance of being accepted into the programme. Initially, it's also an opportunity for you to give more information so they can decide whether they want to continue with the process

Safeguarding Checks

These will vary according to your context but may include things like police checks, community leader input, references and anything else you can do to determine whether the applicant(s) are known for anything that would rule them out as a potential foster carer.

Training and Assessment

These two steps are done together for a reason - observing the applicant's engagement with the training forms part of the assessment. Their engagement includes attendance, how they participate and the content of their responses, questions and answers.

Assessment is a very in depth information gathering step about the potential foster family. It needs to involve everyone in the household and enable you to really know the family. This step is one of the most important aspects of the process as **the quality of the information gathered here will influence the analysis and decision making in the next steps.**

Information gathering includes what you see, what you hear and what you find out.

Social Worker's Analysis

This is where all the information gathered so far is reviewed by the social worker to determine whether the applicant(s) can provide a safe and appropriate family environment for children who are vulnerable.

The information is analysed against the organisation's criteria, the social worker's knowledge of what a safe and unsafe carer looks like (a risk assessment) and what type of foster care the applicants would be suitable for, as well as what specific needs they are best suited to meet.



Panel Decides

The final decision to accept, reject or defer the applicant is a significant decision as it has direct impact on children’s lives. For this reason it’s made by a panel of people, not an individual.

The people who sit on the panel will vary according to your context but it could include: a senior representative of your organisation, a government or judicial official and other appropriate community representatives.

Including those with lived experience of foster care - both foster carers and adults who spent time in foster care and/or other forms of alternative care during their childhood - on the panel brings invaluable knowledge and experience to the decision making process.

All members of the panel need to be trained to understand their role and responsibilities.

Know the Family Supporting Placements

Once a child has been placed with a foster carer we need to have processes and systems for monitoring and supporting both the child and the carers. The care planning process does this for the child. The foster care monitoring and review process does that for the carers as illustrated below.



Continued Registration as Foster Carers?

YES NO
 (Green checkmark for YES, Red X for NO)

Know the COMMUNITY



- * What are the strengths in the community?
- * What are the risks?
- * What support is available in the community?



Understanding the community your organisation operates in is essential to developing a successful foster care programme. For example, a child with complex health needs might not be best suited to a placement with a carer in a rural setting where the nearest hospital is over two hours

away. Similarly an older child might need to be with carers who have access to a local secondary school.

Understanding the community your organisation operates in is essential to developing a successful foster care programme. Foster carers in a rural village will face different challenges to those in an urban environment. And, of course, some of the challenges they face will be almost identical, regardless of their location!

Knowing your community well will help you provide better support to both children and carers. It will also help you develop recruitment strategies that are tailor made for your organisation.

Know the **CONTEXT**

Before you consider starting a foster care programme you need to understand:

1 Culture, Religion & Geography

You will need to think through things like:

- * Is foster care a familiar concept in the local culture (if local terms and language are used), and how does it fit with local religious beliefs?
- * Will your social workers and other staff need to travel long distances or across difficult terrain to visit families and monitor children's care? This will affect how many families you can support in your programme



2 Law

- * Is foster care supported by the government and/or courts in your region?
- * Does your organisation have the legal permissions needed to run a foster care programme?
- * Do you know the national / regional laws, regulations and guidance for foster care?



3 Policy

- * Does your organisation have policies and procedures to support a foster care programme?
- * Does a foster care programme fit within local child care and protection policy?
- * What routes for referral in and out of the foster care system need to be created with other local agencies?



Know the ORGANISATION

And now for the 5th and final pillar, “Know your organisation”

If your organisation is considering foster care, here are just a few things to start thinking through:

- * What is your organisation's motivation for starting a foster care programme?
- * What financial resources will be needed to develop and run a foster care programme?
- * Do you have the financial capacity to run a programme long term?
- * If you rely on donations, how will you bring donors on board?
- * What expertise do you already have in your team and what additional support and training will you need to arrange - both external expertise (we can help!) or internal expertise by hiring new staff?
- * If your organisation is transitioning from another model of care like a children's home, how will you navigate that transition? Especially if the two programmes are to be running together for a period of time.

Here's why understanding each of these 5 “Know the...” Pillars is so important:

The more your organisation knows about each of these pillars, the more informed decision making will be.

And the more informed decision making is, the more likely it is that a child will be matched with a foster family that is right for them.

The more likely a successful match takes place, the more likely it is that the child will go on to:

be safe,
have a sense of belonging and
the best chance to thrive.

And at SFAC, that's what we're all about!



Where do we start?!

So, you've made it this far and it seems like foster care and your organisation might just be a good fit...

But where do you start?!

Here's a few suggestions:



Training

Before starting a foster care programme it is essential to seek out further training and support. As this booklet has shown, a foster care programme contains many moving parts. Taking time to understand each part and how to do it well is a complex process.

But it will be worth it to see how it changes the lives of the children involved.

If you're considering further training for your organisation, you can read more about how SFAC can help on page 27 or on our website - www.sfac.org.uk

Resources & Recruitment

Foster Care programmes require dedicated staff. Simply adding additional responsibilities to staff running existing programmes is not enough. You will need to recruit, or assign, social workers that can dedicate themselves to foster care service.

Planning

Consider where the children in your foster care programme will come from. This will differ from organisation to organisation.

If you have children already in your care, or are involved with families in the community this may be your starting point. Or maybe children are referred to you by the government or the courts.

Other things to consider in your planning include what age range will you work with, where will your foster families be located, specialisms (if any), and what type of foster care will you provide?

Start Small

You will learn as you go. Starting with a small number of children and families allows your staff to dedicate the time needed to carefully and thoughtfully address problems as they arise and give children and families the best chance of success.

This guide was designed to help you start thinking through whether or not starting a foster care programme might be right for your organisation.

It was prepared by our team of child care and protection experts and reviewed by our trustees and representatives from some of the organisations we partner with all over the globe.

If your organisation is considering foster care and would like to speak with us about what your next steps might be or how we can help you on that journey, email us on

info@sfac.org.uk

to book a free online consultation.

On the following page, you'll find some suggestions for further reading as well as some information about the services we offer at SFAC.

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SAFE. BELONG. THRIVE.

SFAC's Services

Below you will find a range of services we offer that are directly relevant to foster care.

SFAC offers many further services around child care and protection programmes and systems. These include but are not limited to: alternative care, kinship care, returning children to their biological parents, therapeutic care and legal systems and skills.

You can find out more about these on our website: www.sfac.org.uk

Training

- Bespoke step-by-step training to set up a foster care programme customised to your context including the following:
 - * Case management systems and forms,
 - * Admissions process,
 - * Exit strategy (including returning children to their birth parents and kinship care)
 - * Training for foster carers
 - * Care planning process
 - * Assessing and recruiting carers
 - * Support for foster carers and more...
- Training on how to support young people to live in the community once they're old enough to live independently

Courses

We currently offer the **Protective Behaviours Foundation** Course and will be adding two further Protective Behaviours Courses in 2026.

Protective Behaviours is a flexible framework built on the two foundational themes of safety and connection. *We recommend* this course because it offers foster carers practical strategies they can use to care for children and themselves. It's also helpful for staff in understanding both the child and carer's needs.

The framework allows you to explain complex concepts like attachment and trauma informed care in simple, straightforward language and is also invaluable in the workplace providing strategies to help team members avoid burnout and compassion fatigue.

SFAC's Services

Mentoring

- In addition to our training services we offer regular or one off **mentoring sessions**. These are designed to help individuals and organisations implement what they've learnt in training. They provide an opportunity questions as they arise and address any challenges along the way.
- Similarly, **case consultations sessions** are available to discuss the specific needs of a child or family. The SFAC team brings their expertise in child care and protection across social, therapeutic and legal work to problem solve together with you and your team.

Advocacy

- We can work with you to develop strategies and programmes to **promote foster care** within your communities and with your government and/or judiciary.
- We can also deliver **training and advice directly to governments and judiciary** to develop foster care programmes, systems and legislation. This includes opportunities for key figures to visit the UK to speak with peers here and/or advice on with other programmes around the world that might be beneficial for you to visit and/or connect with online.

Reviews

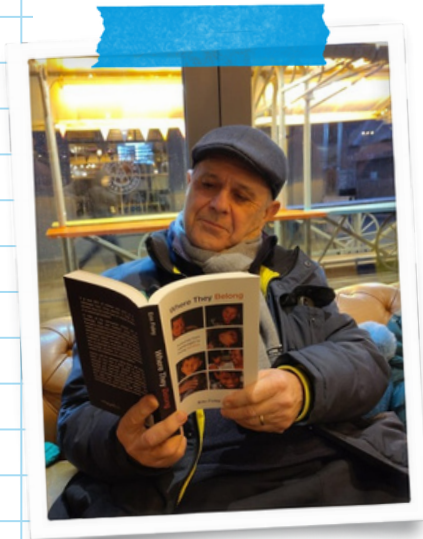
If your organisation already provides care and protection services, we can review your current programmes and processes and make recommendations for how to improve your service and/or how you might transition to or include foster care in your services where appropriate.

We never want cost to be a barrier to accessing our services so we provide subsidies to qualifying organisations (subject to availability). Where immediate funds aren't available we will work with you to explore alternative funding options.

You can read more about our services on our website: www.sfac.org.uk

Further Reading

- * Children Belong in Families by Mick Pease and Phil Williams
- * Where They Belong by Erin Foley
- * Fostering Better Care by Emily Delap
- * Global Charter on Children's Care Reform
- * United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



References

- * Li, D., Chng, G. S., & Chu, C. M. (2017). Comparing Long-Term Placement Outcomes of Residential and Family Foster Care: A Meta-Analysis. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 20(5)*, 653–664. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838017726427>
- * Sauerwein, M. N., & Graßhoff, G. (2024). Trend Effects of Being in Care, from Early to Late Adulthood: A Comparative Look at Adults Who Were in Residential or Foster Care As Children and Those Who Did Not Experience Out-Of-Home Care. *Residential Treatment For Children & Youth, 1–25*. [Li, D., Chng, G. S., & Chu, C. M. \(2017\). Comparing Long-Term Placement Outcomes of Residential and Family Foster Care: A Meta-Analysis. Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 20\(5\), 653–664. https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838017726427](https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838017726427)

¹ [Lancet - https://www.thelancet.com/commissions-do/deinstitutionalisation-children](https://www.thelancet.com/commissions-do/deinstitutionalisation-children)



Strengthening Families And Children

**by equipping adults
involved in child care and protection
with the knowledge & skills they need
to help children thrive.**



SFAC is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

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