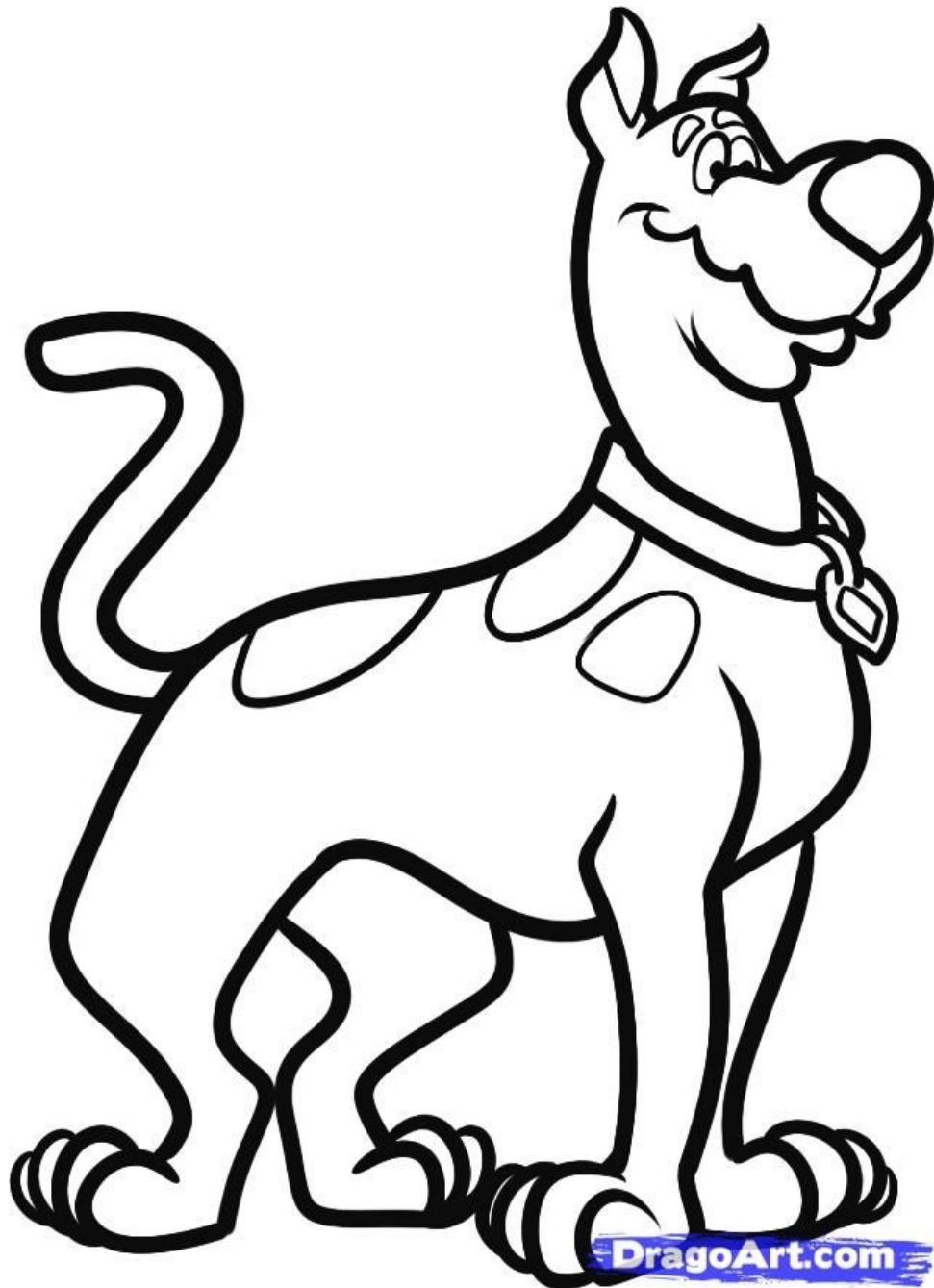


Here's a page for you to colour



A Children's Guide To Foster Care

I'm Scooby and I'm here to tell you all about foster care.

This Booklet is yours to keep and use whenever you want to find something out.



This booklet belongs
to _____

Welcome to Family Fostering

This booklet is yours to keep and we hope you find it helpful. It has lots of information that you might need while you are in foster care. If you need any help reading or understanding it please let us know.

Meet the Team



Hi, I'm Debi Atkin
I'm the Registered Manager



Hello, I'm Teresa Morgan
I'm the Service Manager



Hi , I'm Judith Honnor
I'm a Fostering Manager



Hi, I'm Chantelle Lacey and I'm a Su-
pervising Social Worker



Hello, I'm Chantal Wayman and I'm a
Supervising Social Worker

Who is there to help and support me?

Write down their full names, telephone numbers and email addresses.

My Foster Carer(s)

.....

.....

My Social Worker

.....

.....

My Independent Reviewing Officer

.....

.....

My Foster Carer's Supervising Social Worker

.....

.....



Here are some organisations that are here to help you:

ChildLine - 24 hour helpline for children in distress

0800 1111 (free phone) / www.childline.org.uk

Coram Voice - Advice and support for children in care

Always Heard Helpline: 0808 800 5792 (free phone)

coramvoice.org.uk

Text / Whatsapp: 07758 670369

email help@coramvoice.org.uk

The Children's Commissioner for England - Advice and help for Children in care or living away from home

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street

London SW1P 3BT

0800 528 0731 / 020 7783 8330

email help.team@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Hello, I'm Chloe Berry and I'm a
Supervising Social Worker



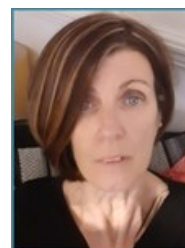
Hi! I'm Krista McAllister and I'm the
Office Manager



Hi, I'm Simone Shallcross
I'm the Office Administrator



Hi, I'm Su Hamlyn
I'm the Administrative Assistant



Hi, I'm Lorna Turner
I'm the Administrative Assistant



What is Foster Care?

Over 64,000 children and young people live with foster carers in the UK. There are lots of reasons why young people may not be able to live with their own family. When this happens they usually move to foster care to make sure they are looked after and kept safe. Whatever the reason for you being in foster care, it is not your fault and not because of anything you have done.

What about what I want?

Your wishes and feelings are very important. Make sure you tell your social worker or foster carer what you would like to happen and how you are feeling.

What is a foster family?

Foster Families have been carefully chosen to look after children. They do all the things that birth parents should do, such as keeping you safe, making sure you eat healthily, setting rules and helping you with things like going to school and attending health checks.

You can also talk to Ofsted who are in charge of all Fostering Services and follow up all complaints

Ofsted

Office for Standards in Education,

Children's Services & Skills

Piccadilly Gate,

Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD

0300 123 1231 / enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

www.ofsted.gov.uk



What if I have a problem or I am unhappy?

We know that it's not easy moving in with a new family and we will do all we can to help make sure you feel safe, happy and well cared for. If you are worried about anything please let us know. We will always listen and try to help you 😊

Remember you can always request to see your file and records, just ask your Supervising Social Worker about this!

Teresa Morgan – Children's Officer

Tel : 07815 532 569

Contact us at:

Family Fostering
The Marlowe Innovation Centre
Marlowe Way
Ramsgate
Kent CT12 6FA
01843 598647

What will my Foster Family expect from me?

Every family has rules. For example, not hurting anyone in the home including pets, bedtimes and coming home times, what programmes/games/DVD's you may or may not be able to watch. Your social worker and foster carers will want your views on the rules and the consequences as there may be room for changes.

You might find it helpful to write down your foster carers rules

Speak to your foster carer or social worker if you feel any rules are unfair or if your rights are not being upheld.



How will I be looked after in my foster home?

There are certain ways you should be treated no matter what. You have the right:

- to be safe, secure and protected
- to be listened to and treated fairly and equally
- to information/advice, healthcare and education
- to enjoy your religion and culture
- to help you with any disability you have



Will I see my family?

We understand how important your family is to you. Your social worker will speak with you about when you can see your family and how often. Tell them who you want to see so they can try and make sure this happens.



What about school?

School is very important because it's where you make friends, learn about things, start to grow up and take part in activities and hobbies that interest you.

Your teacher will know that you have gone to live with a foster family, but it is your choice if you want to tell other people. If you have any problems, difficulties or are being bullied, you must tell your teacher, social worker or foster carer.

If you are already at school, your social worker will try to work out if it is best for you to move to a new school or stay at your old one. They will ask you how you feel about this so it is really important that you share your thoughts.



What about pocket money?

You will get pocket money every week while you are in foster care. The amount you get depends on how old you are. Your foster carer also has some money to buy you new clothes and shoes when they are needed. Family Fostering and your Foster carer also saves money for you. This money is for when you are older.

What about activities and holidays?

Your foster carer will encourage you to continue with hobbies and activities that you are interested in or encourage you to try new ones. Family Fostering will also have activity days for you to join in. We encourage all foster families to have a holiday every year with the children in their care.



Who decides what will happen?

When you first move into Foster Care all of the grown ups in your life will get together and make a care plan for you. It is really important that you say what you want to happen and how you are feeling at this meeting. You may be asked to write this down or to tell your social worker and you may also take part in this meeting.

These meetings are called 'reviews'. They are held regularly to make sure you are being well cared for and have the help and support you need while you are in foster care. At every review, you should be asked what you think and what your views are.

If you have any worries in between these meetings, you can talk to your social worker or the person who is in charge of the review. This is the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO). Ask your social worker or foster carer for your IRO's telephone number.

What does my social worker do?

Every foster family has their own social worker and they are called supervising social workers. It is their job to make sure your foster family are looking after you properly and have all the support you both need. They will visit your foster family at least once every month and will talk to you from time to time to make sure you are happy and well cared for.

