**Private fostering**

You’re a private foster carer if both the following apply:

* you’re not a close relative, ie grandparent, brother or sister, uncle or aunt or step-parent
* you’re looking after a child who’s under 16 (under 18 if they’re disabled) for more than 28 days in a row

You must tell your local council about this arrangement.

**What to expect**

A social worker will visit you and the child to make sure the child is safe and being properly cared for.

The social worker will do background checks on you. They can also offer help and support.

You must tell your local council if you’re a parent and you’ve asked someone who isn’t a close relative to look after your child.

* [Information on private fostering from the Royal Borough of Greenwich](http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/159/fostering/734/private_fostering)
* [Information and advice from DfE](https://www.gov.uk/looking-after-someone-elses-child)