



**Does your child live with someone else?  
Does someone else's child live with  
you?**

## **Private Fostering**

If you are not related to the child or young person you are caring for and they are staying with you more than 28 days, living in the Borough of Reading, the law says that you must inform the Council.

Call us for advice and support

**0118 937 3641**

or visit [www.reading.gov.uk/privatefostering](http://www.reading.gov.uk/privatefostering)



**Reading**  
Borough Council  
Working better with you

# Private Fostering

Under the Children Act 1989 (part IX) you **MUST** tell your local council if you:

- look after someone else's child in a private fostering arrangement or
- ask someone not closely related to you to look after your child in a private fostering arrangement

## What is Private Fostering?

Private fostering takes place when:

- a home and care is provided to a child under 16 years old (or under 18 years old if the child is disabled) by someone who is not related to them. In this case a relative includes grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts. It also includes half-relatives, step parents and people who are related to the child by marriage.
- it is for 28 days or more
- it is a private arrangement between the carers and the child's parents or guardian

Examples of private fostering arrangements include:

- Children who are sent to live in this country for education and/or health care by birth parents who live overseas
- Children who live with a friend's family because of separation, divorce or arguments at home
- Teenagers who live with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend
- Children whose parents' work or study commitments involve unsociable hours which makes it difficult for them to use ordinary day or after school care
- Children whose parents may have a long term illness and are unable to look after them.
- Children who are sent to friends on holiday.

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