



Appendix 3: The Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Care

The information in this section refers to foster carers in England only

The *Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Care* (hereafter referred to as the *TSD Standards*) were developed by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) and launched in 2007. The standards set out the skills and knowledge that newly approved foster carers need to have to be able to provide the care that fostered children and young people need. They have been designed to support foster carers from their initial training and assessment through their first year of fostering.

The *TSD Standards* recognise the importance of the work foster carers do and are intended to ensure that you have the best possible training, information and support. They acknowledge that you bring certain skills and knowledge to your role as a foster carer but, like any other professional, you need training and support to develop those skills. It is not about judging you and your abilities, it is about providing evidence of the skills you already have and making sure you are given the tools you need to understand what is involved in fostering so you can make a difference to the lives of those you will be caring for.

Every fostering service needs to be able to show that their foster carers have met the standards in their first 12 months as an approved foster carer. There are seven main standards, each one divided into a number of sub-standards. This book assumes a certain level of prior knowledge gained through completion of *The Skills to Foster* or other pre-approval training course and some or all of the other titles in the *Pathways Through Fostering* series.

This book will provide knowledge and understanding that will underpin the specific *TSD Standards* detailed on the chart opposite.



Standard 1: Understand the principles and values essential for fostering children and young people

Standard 2: Understand your role as a foster carer

1b Understand your own role and responsibilities	All
2a Know about relevant legislation, policies and procedures relating to foster care, and where you can get further information.	Chapter 2
3a Understand the importance of families and friends for children and young people	All, particularly Chapter 1
3b Demonstrate how you involve families and others in the lives of children and young people and the important role of foster carers in helping a child maintain contact.	All, particularly Chapters 3 and 4
4c Know how to contribute to planning for children and young people, including contributions to meetings/reviews.	Chapter 4

Standard 3: Understand health and safety and healthy care

Standard 4: Know how to communicate effectively

1a Demonstrate how you listen to and understand the wishes and feelings of children and young people.	All, particularly Chapter 6
3a Show that you are aware of the procedures for arranging contact and understand your role as a foster carer	All, particularly Chapter 2, Chapter 4
5a Understand the importance of keeping accurate records	Chapter 4

Standard 5: Understanding the development of children and young people

5a Understand children and young people in the context of their wider family, caring or social network	All, particularly Chapter 6
5b Understand the contribution family, caring and social networks make to the development of children and young people	Chapter 5

Standard 6: Keep children and young people safe from harm

Standard 7: Develop yourself

1a Understand the implications of your approval as a foster carer for yourself and your family.	All, particularly Chapter 9
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This knowledge can be evidenced in a number of ways: through a conversation with your supervising social worker, completion of an 'activity sheet' or through completion of a face-to-face or online training course. Speak to your supervising social worker to discuss the methods of evidence that will work best for you.