

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.

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.

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

4a Understand the importance of confidentiality

Standard 2: Understand your role as a foster carer

1b Understand your own role and responsibilities	Chapter 1
4a Understand the concept of 'the foster care team' and your contribution to effective teamwork	Chapter 2

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
1d Show how you help children and young people to make their own decisions	All, especially Chapter 1
4a Understand the importance of effective communication with other organizations who are in contact with children and young people	All

Standard 5: Understand the development of children and young people

2a Understand how foster carers can help children and young people develop resilience and self esteem	All, especially Chapter 8
3c Be able to work with young people to develop skills, self-confidence and knowledge to prepare them for adulthood and independent living	Chapter 6
4a Know how to encourage children and young people to participate in activities	Chapter 3
5a Show how you can encourage and support children with their education (including early years education) and help them overcome setbacks.	All
5b Be able to actively work with families, social workers and teachers to help children and young people achieve	All
5c Know how to support young people in their further education and training, and employment	Chapter 6
5d Be able to advocate on behalf of children and young people to ensure their educational needs are met.	Chapter 1
8d Understand how you might support children and young people with special educational needs and their families.	Pages 48-50

Standard 6: Keep children and young people safe from harm

3a Understand the different ways in which children and young people can be harmed by adults, other children and young people including the internet	Pages 97-98
3d Understand how children might be bullied and know what action to take if you suspect a child is being bullied	Pages 97-98

Standard 7: Develop yourself