



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

1b Explain why it is important to listen to children and young people's views about risk and safety, and show how you take these into account in your role as a foster carer	Chapter 4
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Standard 2: Understand your role as a foster carer

1b Understand your own role and responsibilities	All
4a Understand the concept of 'the foster care team' and your contribution to effective teamwork.	Chapter 8

Standard 3: Understand health and safety and healthy care

4a Understand potential risks to the safety and security of yourself and members of your family and what you can do to reduce or manage the risks	Chapter 5, Chapter 6
5a Identify examples of risks to children and young people and appropriate action to reduce or manage the risks.	Chapter 5, Chapter 6

Standard 4: Know how to communicate effectively

1a Demonstrate how you listen to and understand the wishes and feelings of children and young people	Chapter 4
5a Understand the importance of keeping accurate records	Chapter 7
5c Know how to record understandable, relevant, clear and concise, factual information which can be checked	Chapter 7

Standard 5: Understanding the development of children and young people

6c Understand the impact of abuse, separation and loss on the behaviour of children and young people	Chapter 2, Chapter 4
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Standard 6: Keep children and young people safe from harm

2a Demonstrate that you understand what children and young people want and need to feel safe	Chapter 5
2b Be aware of what contributes to a safe environment for children and young people	Chapter 5, Chapter 6
2c Know how to help children and young people keep themselves safe from harm or abuse	Chapter 5, Chapter 6
2d Develop and maintain 'safer caring' guidelines for you and your household.	Chapter 5
3a Understand the different ways in which children and young people can be harmed by adults, other children and young people including the internet	Chapter 2, Chapter 6, Chapter 6
3c Understand signs and indicators of possible abuse and neglect	Chapter 2

Standard 7: Develop yourself

1a Understand the implications of your approval as a foster carer for yourself and your family	All, particularly Chapters 1 & 3
2a Understand the impact of fostering on your own children and other members of your family, their support and training needs and how to access these.	Chapter 3