

Short breaks scheme

for disabled children





Short Breaks Scheme *for* disabled children

THE SHORT BREAKS SCHEME suits people who would like to foster, but don't currently have the time. On this scheme a disabled child comes to stay with you for regular short breaks of one or two nights – typically one weekend a month. Introductions may involve day visits to start with. Arrangements are flexible to fit in with holidays and other commitments.

The children will have disabilities ranging from complex special needs to physical or learning disabilities. Some children need carers with nursing or other experience, but most will be fine with people with no previous experience. The fostering team carefully matches new carers to a child whose needs they can meet.

The idea is to involve the children in your life as much as possible. This might be a few days at home or outings, visits or things like trips to the cinema. Coming to stay with another family helps the young people to feel more independent and they enjoy making new friends and trying new things.

Hopefully the link between you and the child you care for will last for several years and be rewarding in many ways for your whole family.

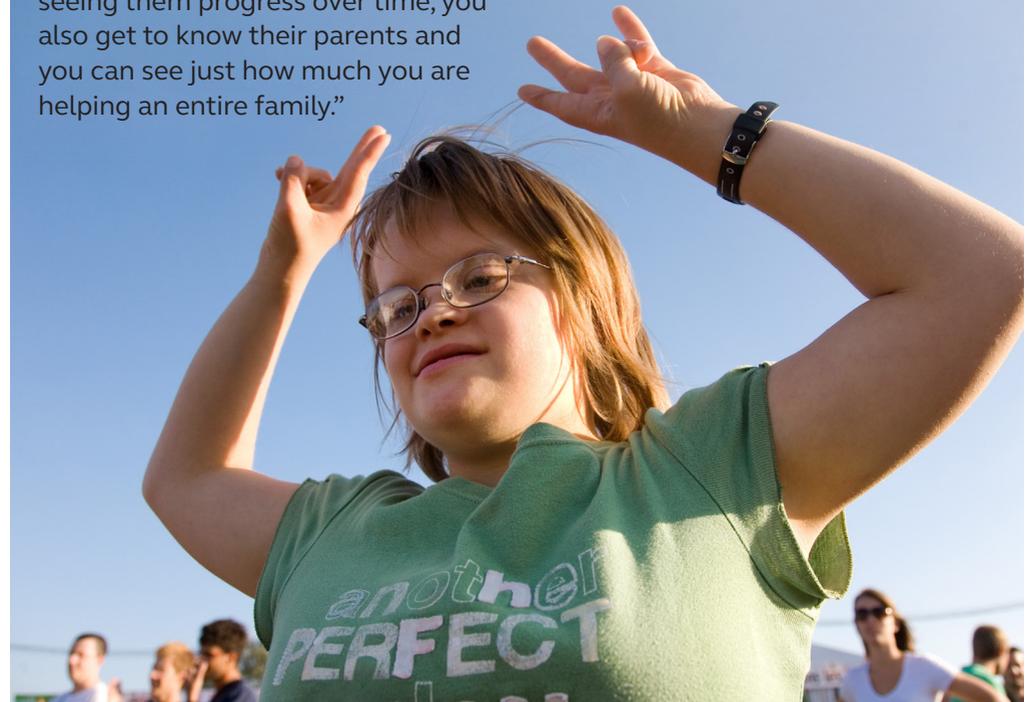
As a Leicester Short Breaks carer you'll receive sessional payments, training and 24-hour support. You will also be eligible for free or subsidised entry to many leisure facilities.

“I SOMETIMES FEEL QUITE SELFISH BECAUSE I ENJOY IT SO MUCH...”

Bringing up a disabled child can be very demanding for parents. Having a free weekend every now and then makes a massive difference to their health and happiness.

Anne has been a Short Breaks carer for the last ten years. She says: “I sometimes feel quite selfish because I enjoy it so much. Having children around gives me an excuse to go to the zoo and do all the things I enjoy and wouldn't otherwise get the opportunity to do. It is so rewarding because, as well as getting to know the children and seeing them progress over time, you also get to know their parents and you can see just how much you are helping an entire family.”

Sean has seen how much his eldest son has benefited from spending time with a Short Breaks carer. “For our family, the Short Breaks scheme has been a lifesaver. When I tell my son that it's his day to go to his carer for a break he gets a great big smile on his face. He really looks forward to going. He enjoys going out and doing different things and having a change of scenery. After a while you see how much this new stimulation is helping him progress.”





What to do next?

The next step is to contact us for impartial advice about all the options open to you.

All kinds of people are short breaks carers, including single people as well as couples and families who already have their own children. Age limit is 25 to 60s.

There will be someone to help you along every step of the way. You can expect excellent training and preparation before you start along with care and support once you start.

You choose which age-group and type of child you wish to care for and our team is very skilled at achieving a great match between child and family.

Just ring **0116 454 4500** for a discussion. Or, if you prefer, you can simply request that further information be sent to you.

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