

Update for foster carers – 9th April 2020

I hope you and your families are all continuing to keep well and safe.

As we approach the Easter bank holiday period, it is worth reflecting on the past few weeks of us all adjusting our daily lives, in the context of the global pandemic, and appreciating one another and the aspects of life we may have taken for granted.

I have been heartened to hear how our staff and Foster Carers are not only supporting each other but also of the extra efforts being made by staff to ensure we are providing an effective service across our children's services in these challenging times. As one of our foster carers; you are providing a fundamental service in supporting some of our most vulnerable children and young people and I am grateful for your support.

Contact

Colleagues from our contact service will soon be sharing a contact agreement with you, to reflect the current changes as to how contact is to be facilitated. Should this course any issues for you, then please discuss with your SSW.

Placements

None of us knows how long the current lockdown arrangements will last, and we have an ever-increasing need for foster placements. It would be helpful to know if you are able to offer any additional placements, where safe to do so taking account of your existing placement/s. If you can assist, please do let us know through your SSW.

Support letter

You should also receive a letter as part of this update, as a means of support should it be needed, highlighting that Nottinghamshire County Council value you as keyworkers in supporting our vulnerable children and families, which will hopefully also help to provide reassurance to children and young people placed.

Resources

The following resources identified by our fantastic fostering staff and foster carers, including from the DDP network, may be of use to you:

Suzanne Zeedyk connected baby coping with the anxiety of Covid 19

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCQt4SUMkPyBHZztdOxaBJqA>

Sofa time with Louise Bomber, who is great on trauma and education

<https://youtu.be/OInJVfzvN9w>

Article by foster carers for foster carers acknowledging challenges and fears
<https://metro.co.uk/2020/04/02/ive-fostering-12-years-navigating-global-pandemic-frightens-12493734/>

Scottish Attachment In Action
<https://www.saia.org.uk/why-attachment-matters-more-than-ever.html>

Trauma courses online for own development
<https://beaconhouse.org.uk/training/developmental-trauma-for-professionals-online-training-package/>

Carol Vorderman Maths: <https://www.themathsfactor.com/>
Maths website for all children

English/Maths: <https://plprimarystars.com>
Premier league primary stars. English maths sports and well being for 5 to 13 years olds.

My Mini Maths: <https://myminimaths.co.uk/>
Maths work for Year 3 – Year 6

Reading Eggs: <https://readingeggs.co.uk/>
Register for a free trial and get 2 weeks free access to reading resources. Suitable for all.

Nasa Kids club: <https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub>
Children's website about all things space. Suitable for all.

Cbeebies Games: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/games>
A variety of educational games. More suitable for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Also, please see our foster carer website: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/fanotts> for updates re; COVID-19 and where there is lots of good information and resources.

Thank you for all you are doing and for your ongoing support to our looked after children and young people. I will keep you all updated of any changes to our working practices impacted by any further government guidance.

Ty Yousaf
Fostering Service Manager
9th April 2020