



family futures CIC
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What is Family Futures?



A guide for birth children

A Community Interest Company that is a Not-for-Profit Social Enterprise putting children and parents before profit!

Family Futures CIC, a community interest company registered in England and Wales with registered company number 8423617, whose registered office address is Wellesley House, Duke of Wellington Avenue, Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SS. Adoption agency registration – SC462984.

www.familyfutures.co.uk



Company registration n° 8423617

Family Futures is an Agency that helps children who are fostered or adopted and their new families.

We are not Children's Services and we don't take children away from their parents.

We know how hard it is sometimes for children who have been born into a family to have fostered or adopted children join their family. Sometimes it can be fun and exciting. Sometimes it can be worrying and upsetting.

At Family Futures we know that it is hard and sometimes sad and scary to think about these problems. We know that children and young people often have lots of questions and things that they're not clear about.

Many children who find themselves being part of an adoptive family or foster family have said the following things to us:

“I wanted a brother I could play with but I can't play with him.”

“My parents did ask me whether they should do this but I didn't think it would be like this.”

“Sometimes I just want them to go back”

“Most of the time we get on well but sometimes I get scared when he/she get angry.”

“I don't like it when he/she swears at my mum.”

“I am cross with my mum and dad because I'm afraid this is going to split up my family.”

Thanks to the children we have talked to at Family Futures we do understand how confusing and sometimes scary it can be to have a new child join your family. Many children have told us it was helpful to talk to someone about how they feel. That's what we at Family Futures are here for.

How will we do this?

By talking to you and finding out what you think and want to say.

By talking to your parents and brothers or sisters.

By using drawing, painting, stories, music, drama and other art forms.

By getting information from your files.

Do you want to do this?

We know how difficult it can be sometimes having another child join your family.

The adults at Family Futures will:

- Keep you safe
- Will listen to any worries or fears you may have
- Help you talk to your parents
- Help you understand the new child in your family's past
- Help you feel good about yourself
- Help you make good choices and have fun

We help children to share any secrets they might have.

All children have rights, if you feel you are not being listened to and you want to talk to somebody about how you are feeling. If you can't talk to your parents, your teacher or anyone at Family Futures you can ask NYAS to help you.

Web: www.nyas.net/helpline
Free Phone: 0808 808 1001
Email: help@nyas.net

We try to do our best but sometimes we get it wrong. If you are unhappy about anything that has been said to you or has happened to you when you have been at Family Futures, you have the right to complain.

How can I complain?

You can complain by talking to or writing to any of the following people:

- Your Parents
- Your Therapist at Family Futures
- Your Independent Reviewing Officer
- Family Futures' Independent Person, Roger Weissman, someone who is experienced in working with children, who is independent of Family Futures and whose job it is to make sure that children and families get a good service from Family Futures.

If a complaint is made, all these people will take it seriously and investigate, and will try to sort things out in a friendly way.

How do I contact these people?

Family Futures
Email: contact@familyfutures.co.uk
Tel: 020 7354 4161
Web: www.familyfutures.co.uk

Roger Weissman
Tel: 07957 657721
Email: roger.weissman@lineone.net

Then what happens next?

Whoever you have approached will try and sort out the problem with you and the person concerned as quickly and fairly as possible. If you are still not happy, then you should tell the person you originally complained to that you are not happy and they will start a detailed investigation into your complaint. How this will be done will be explained to you.

If you want to talk to someone call Family Futures on 0207 354 4161 or send us an e-mail to contact@familyfutures.co.uk

Alternatively you can contact Ofsted's Children Rights Director. OFSTED register and inspect Family Futures and are there to protect you.

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD
Tel 0300 123 1231

Or you can contact the Children's Rights Director for England
Free Phone: 0800 528 0731
advice.team@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk