



Family Futures

Family Futures CIC
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What is Family Futures?

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



www.familyfutures.co.uk

A Guide for Birth Children and Young People

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 children or adopted children join them. 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 why your family has changed and how this feels. 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 gets 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”

The adults at Family Futures are here to help you and your parents answer some of these questions.

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 or children 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.

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's past family and story
- 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, or 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/Carers
- Your Therapist at Family Futures
- Family Futures' Independent Person, Roger Weissman. Roger is experienced in the fields of fostering and adoption and is independent of Family Futures. His job is to make sure 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: 07506 720618
Email: roger.weissman@outlook.com

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.

Alternatively you can contact Ofsted (these people are there to protect you):

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester M1 2WD
Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
Tel: 0300 123 1231

Or you can contact the
The Children's Commissioner for England
Email: info.request@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 020 7783 8330