

# A guide to fostering for children (4 - 10)



**This booklet will  
help you understand  
what fostering is.**



Sam lives at 5 Ivy Road. The house is like all the others in the road, except Sam thinks they have the best front garden. Uncle Joe looks after it and plants lots of flowers.



One big plant got broken when Sam wobbled on his bicycle. He got very upset but Uncle Joe said accidents will happen and he and Sam are going to put in a new plant at the weekend. Sam likes gardening with Uncle Joe.



**Sam lives with Uncle Joe and Auntie Sally. They are his foster carers and look after him because he can not live with his mum and dad. Auntie Sally is a very good cook and Sam loves her special spaghetti bolognese. She laughs a lot but is strict about bath time and bed time. Auntie Sally helps Sam with all sorts of things and now he can tie his shoes laces and wash his hair all on his own.**

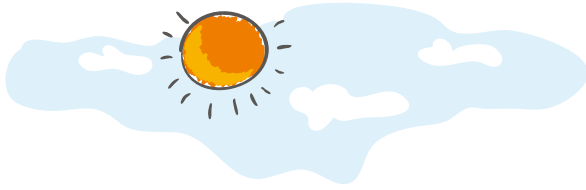


Sam's mum and dad both drink a lot and sometimes they went out and left Sam on his own. This was very scary and Sam is afraid of the dark now. Auntie Sally leaves a light on when Sam goes to bed. He sometimes calls out to check she is downstairs. She always is. If Sam wants to talk about anything, Auntie Sally is always there to listen to him.



Sam goes to School near where he lives with Uncle Joe and Auntie Sally. Sometimes his friends from school come home for tea, especially when they are having spaghetti bolognese. Sam enjoys going to Beavers and Uncle Joe takes him swimming on Saturday mornings. Sam says Uncle Joe and Auntie Sally make him feel really special and important. He has a special place for his most important things and he knows they are always safe.





**Sam misses his mum and dad and likes it when he sees them at contact. Sometimes they do not come and Sam cries. Uncle Joe and Auntie Sally give him a hug when this happens and they all talk about it. Sam knows that Auntie Sally talks to his mum and listens to her, and Sam likes this.**

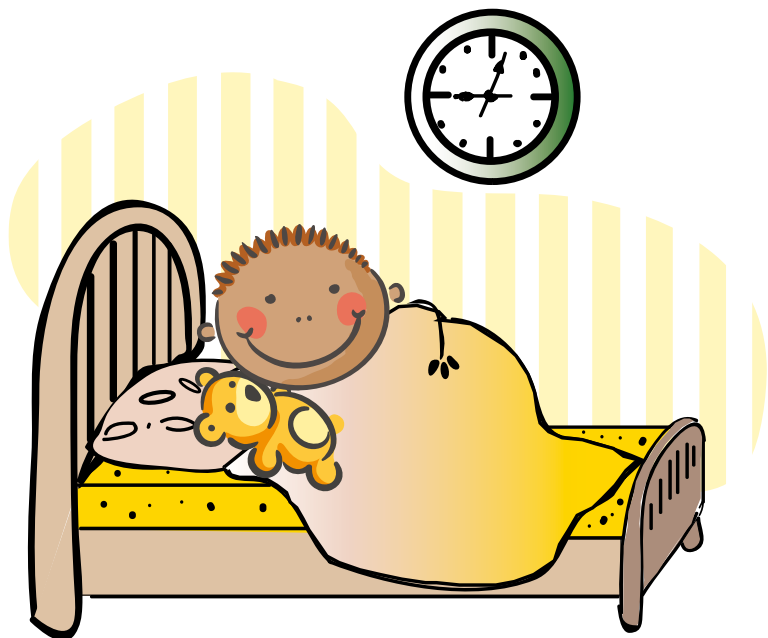


Sam has a social worker called Ben. He comes to visit Sam. Sometimes they go to the park and play football. Ben asks Sam if he has any worries and Sam sometimes asks if his mum and dad are alright.



Sam feels safe with Uncle Joe and Auntie Sally. He wants to stay with them and it's still ok to see his mum and dad sometimes.

Uncle Joe and Auntie Sally look after Sam when he doesn't feel very well - but he doesn't mind staying in bed because his bedroom is really warm and comfortable.



It can be tricky telling an adult that you are unhappy, but there are lots of people who will listen to you and help sort things out.

You can call the Merton Complaints Officer on **020 8545 3263**.

If you want someone to listen and stand up for you, you could speak to Reconstruct on **0800 389 1571** or Child Line on **0800 1111**.

If you want to speak in private to your independent reviewing officer, tell your foster carer and they will arrange this for you - or you can tell your social worker or another adult you trust.



You can also contact Ofsted, they spend a lot of time listening to what children and young people have to say about the way they are looked after. Their contact details are:

The Children's Right's Director,  
Ofsted, Aviation House  
125 Kingsway, London  
WC2B 6SE

Freephone: 0800 528 0731

Web: [www.rights4me.org.uk](http://www.rights4me.org.uk)



If you would like any other information about Fostering or this information in large print, Braille, audio tape or another language please contact us.

The Fostering Team  
The London Borough of Merton  
4th Floor Civic Centre  
London Road  
Merton  
SM4 5DX

Telephone: 020 8545 4347  
Email: [fostering@merton.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@merton.gov.uk)



## Request for document translation

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If you need any part of this document explained in your language, please tick box and contact us either by writing or by phone using our contact details below.

- Albanian** Nëse ju nevojitet ndonjë pjesë e këtij dokumenti e shpjeguar në gjuhën amtare ju lutemi shenojeni kutinë dhe na kontaktoni duke na shkruar ose telefononi duke përdorur detajet e mëposhtme.
- Bengali** এই তথ্যের কোনো অংশ আপনার নিজ ভাষায় বুঝতে চাইলে, দয়া করে বাস্তবটিতে (বক্সে) টিক চিহ্ন দিন এবং চিঠি লিখে বা ফোন করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন। নিচে যোগাযোগের বিবরণ দেওয়া হয়েছে।
- French** Si vous avez besoin que l'on vous explique une partie de ce document dans votre langue, cochez la case et contactez-nous par courrier ou par téléphone à nos coordonnées figurant ci-dessous.
- Korean** 만일 본 서류의 어떤 부분이라도 귀하의 모국어로 설명된 것이 필요하다면, 상자속에 표시를 하고 우리에게 전화나 서신으로 연락하십시오.
- Polish** Aby otrzymać część tego dokumentu w polskiej wersji językowej proszę zaznaczyć kwadrat i skontaktować się z nami drogą pisemną lub telefoniczną pod poniżej podanym adresem lub numerem telefonu.
- Portuguese** Caso você necessite qualquer parte deste documento explicada em seu idioma, favor assinalar a quadricula respectiva e contatar-nos por escrito ou por telefone usando as informações para contato aqui fornecidas.
- Somali** Haddii aad u baahan tahay in qayb dukumeentigan ka mid ah laguugu sharxo luqaddaada, fadlan sax ku calaamadee sanduuqa oo nagula soo xiriir warqad ama telefoon adigoo isticmaalaya macluumaadka halkan hoose ku yaalla.
- Spanish** Si desea que alguna parte de este documento se traduzca en su idioma, le rogamos marque la casilla correspondiente y que nos contacte bien por escrito o telefónicamente utilizando nuestra información de contacto que encontrará más abajo.
- Tamil** இந்தப் பத்திரத்தின் எந்தப் பகுதியும் உங்களின் மொழியில் விளக்கப்படுவது உங்களுக்கு வேண்டுமானால், தயவுசெய்து பெட்டியின் அடையாளமிட்டு, கீழுள்ள எங்களின் விவரங்களைப் பயன்படுத்தி எழுத்துமூலமாக அல்லது தொலைபேசி மூலமாக எங்களைத் தொடர்புபடுகாள்வளும்.
- Urdu** اگر آپ اس دستاویز کے کسی حصے کا ترجمہ اپنی زبان میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو دینیے گئے باکس میں صحیح کائنات لگا دینے اور ہمارے درج ذیل رابطے پر یا تو ٹیلیفون کے ذریعے یا پھر تحریری طور پر رابطہ کریں۔

Large print

Braille

Audiotape

#### Your contact:

Name.....  
Address.....  
.....  
.....  
Telephone.....

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4th Floor Civic Centre  
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Merton SM4 5DX  
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