

Foster Care Fortnight: Launch day 2011



Well, here we go! The UK's biggest annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering begins today and this is the first of 10 bulletins you will receive over the next two weeks.

Under the strapline **fostering: time to care**, this year's campaign will highlight the urgent need for more foster carers and call on everyone to get behind fostering and support children in care.

The fortnight begins today and lasts until 29th May.

Foster care fortnight – the blurb!

There is a shortage of thousands of foster carers across the UK, at a time when more children than ever are entering the care system. New foster carers are urgently needed to provide these children with safe and caring homes. With the theme of **fostering: time to care**, Foster Care Fortnight 2011 encourages people to consider if they the skills and qualities it takes to become foster carers.

Foster carers need to have good listening and communication skills, be patient and non-judgemental, have a good sense of humour and, of course, love working with children.

During the campaign, fostering services all over the UK will be holding exciting and innovative events to raise awareness of fostering. The events provide an opportunity for the public to meet foster carers and learn more about a career in fostering.

Foster Care Fortnight 2011 is supported by award-winning author Jacqueline Wilson and tv and radio personality Gabby Logan.

Visit www.couldyoufoster.org.uk for general information about fostering. To find our general information, visit the fostering network website at www.fostering.net/time-to-care.

During the fortnight, asphaleia will be holding events to promote this campaign. Specifically, we want to celebrate our carers and their families and recruit 10 new foster carers. asphaleia will be sending our carers and their families to Chessington for the day, raising our local profile by featuring on Splash FM (more details to come soon) and running a promotional event in Worthing town centre on May 28th.

As well as all the above, asphaleia staff are going to be receiving daily bulletins covering lots of different aspects of fostering at asphaleia. Within these bulletins will be quiz questions that relate to the previous days' bulletin and general fostering facts. Only one quiz per staff member will be accepted – no teams on this one! Please make a note of all the answers, ready to send to me once the fortnight is over. All completed quizzes must arrive in my inbox by Tuesday 31st May 2011 at 5pm. At the end of the fortnight, those

staff who have the winning quiz results will be entered into a prize draw to win £50 cash. The draw will take place on Wednesday 1st June 2011.

I am going to break you all in gently today and ask you:

1. The fostering network offers a fostering advice line. What is the phone number?

To find out more about becoming a foster carer with asphaleia please contact the fostering team on 01903 236522 or visit our website <http://www.asphaleia.co.uk/ventures/fostering.html>.

