

# asphaleia fostering

asphaleia fostering provides fostering services for local authorities including child placements and professional development for carers. This service ensures we can make a positive difference to any vulnerable child's life and provide homes for children facing a period of uncertainty.

## Carer gets published!

asphaleia fostering's newest carer Jo Smith has become a published author!

Jo has contributed to an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) activities resource published by Cambridge University Press.

Jo recently joined the fostering team having trained as a teacher and spent many years teaching English as a second language around the world.

Jo is an active volunteer with the Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture and has built up a wealth of knowledge about asylum seeking young people in the process.

Jo is keen to support any young person in her Hove based home and looks forward to all the new people she will meet.

## A note from one of the team

Adam Bachoo, student social worker, reflects on his time with asphaleia fostering

Having spent last year working with the adult services team at Worthing hospital, I was hoping to be based in a contrasting setting for my final year's placement.

I was originally very excited to be placed with the asphaleia fostering team back in October 2009 because up to that point I had done very little work with children and young people.

My placement in the fostering team has enabled me to gain vital experience of engaging with this particular service group.

As well as the children themselves, I have also had the chance to work closely with asphaleia's foster carers and even be involved in the assessment of new and prospective carers.

The insight this has given me into the fantastic work that they do, and their dedication to the children they care for, has been invaluable.



My placement with asphaleia fostering has allowed me to see and do things I would not have been able to do elsewhere.

Working within such a capable, experienced team of professionals has

challenged me, providing opportunities for me to learn new skills and develop as a professional.

The fostering team are very supportive and have been welcoming and accommodating from the moment I arrived.

Most importantly, there is a real sense that the children and young people who are supported by the service are at the heart of everything we do.

## A Windmill Hill adventure!

Foster carers Matt and Guz arranged for R and D to go on an adventure holiday for a week over the Easter half term.

The two boys stayed at Windmill Hill: a purpose-built activity centre set in the Sussex Downs. The boys shared a log cabin with four others and tried a range of different activities.

The boys' favourite activities were mountain biking and canoeing but they also really enjoyed the zipwire, raft building, climbing, and much more!

With lights out at 10:30pm, the boys were a little annoyed at first – until they realised how much rest they would need to really enjoy the action-packed days ahead!

The weather stayed fair and although they were not too far away from home, it

felt like an adventure far away. The boys can't wait to go again.

"The boys had very muddy clothes when they returned home but had an excellent time. They both made friends and are still in contact via msn. D's only complaint was the food: he missed my home cooking!" says Guz.



I want to thank fostering manager Carol for her support and wish the team the best of luck for the future!

### NEWS IN BRIEF

- asphaleia fostering has recently been rated as 'preferred providers' by West Sussex County Council.

- Nine asphaleia foster carers have successfully achieved the Children's Workforce Development Council's standards.

- To raise awareness during Fostering Fortnight the team were out and about recently in the local area. The team's activities included:

- Article in the Worthing Herald
- Interview for Splash FM news
- Info. stall at the Pavilion Theatre
- Leaflet drop in the Worthing area

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