

# Family First Fostering

## Summer Newsletter

Happy Summer Everyone! What a crazy past couple of months it's been. All the staffing team at Family First Fostering hope you're all well and if you need anything you know where we are!

**"You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go, and see what happens" - Mandy Hale**

We wanted to say a huge thank you and well done to each and every one of you. You have all done an amazing job during this period and have managed the current situation extremely well. We would also like to thank all the young people who took part in our Lockdown Challenges and the carers who have been actively participating in our zoom training session.

**"Look for something positive in each day, even if some days you have to look a little harder"**

Overall, can I ask everyone to please have a read over our summer newsletter for agency updates and acknowledgements!

*Best Wishes,  
All the staff and team at Family First Fostering!*

### Coronavirus

As you are aware the guidelines and rules relating to COVID-19 are constantly changing. The advice we would like to give to you is to follow government guidelines and please remain alert. Please ensure you are stocked up on PPE and are washing your hands and stocked on sanitizer too.

If you need any PPE do not hesitate to email the office as we have stock of face masks and gloves.

If you are planning to go on days out please ensure you have PPE and social distance, also please ensure you check government guidelines in relation to days out and what protection and systems venues are putting in place.

### New Staff

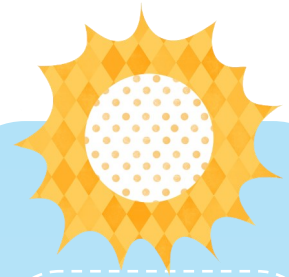
As you may know we have had a few new members of staff start with us recently, we would like to welcome these new members of staff on their journey with us at Family First Fostering. Monica who is a new supervising social worker, welcome to the agency. Nadina and Louise who are new office staff, we would like to welcome you too!

### New Carers

We have also had a few new carers join the agency too. We would like to welcome the following:

BC & MS, M&DB, C&KA, L&PX

*A huge welcome and we look forward to joining you on your fostering journey.*



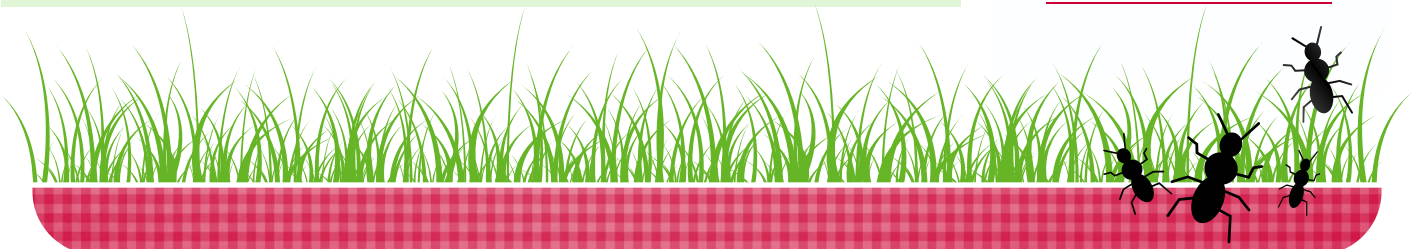
#### Things to do:

We can understand that during young peoples extremely extended time off school it may be hard to find things to do, well we've come up with a list of our own that may be able to help out:

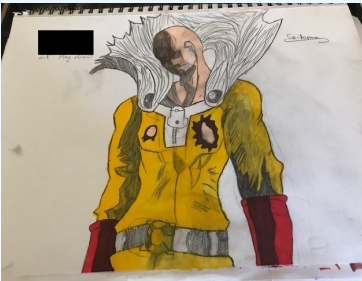
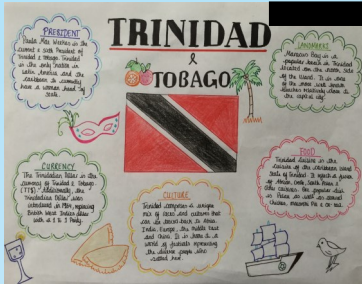
- Go for walks. It may be simple and boring but you could make it enjoyable, go and explore places you've never been before... perhaps go on a picnic or a walk on the beach (just ensure you're following guidelines)
- Have a BBQ whilst the weather is nice and why not put a pool up too.
- Go on a day out, a few places have opened with brilliant safety precautions in place such as theme parks, museums and activity centres such as crazy golf.



*Thorpe Park has recently reopened it's gates and can provide a great family day out. Just ensure you're following government safety guidelines when there.*



Photos from challenges



**Lockdown Challenges:**

During lockdown the agency was setting weekly tasks for young people. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the young people who took part, and a big well done to all of those who won a prize.

A lot of the entries blew us away with how talented a lot of the young people really are and we truly do thank everybody who took part.

*On the left we have put a few of the brilliant entries we received.*

**Returning to school:**

Schools are looking to reopen soon and this could cause some uneasiness within young people. Please ensure you're informing them of all the systems schools are putting in place to keep them safe.

The office has stock of PPE if you are low and just talk young people through systems and ways to keep themselves safe such as social distance and remaining hygienic by washing their hands and using their own equipment at school.

If you're unsure of what systems your young persons school is putting in place, contact them regarding this and ask, if you're still unsure or struggling to make contact please speak to your supervising social worker regarding this.

**Holidays:**

Can we please remind carers that they need to follow the agency's holiday procedure if they're looking to go away. This includes the agency must receive **at least 4 weeks notice if you would like to go on holiday** by completing the foster carers annual leave form.

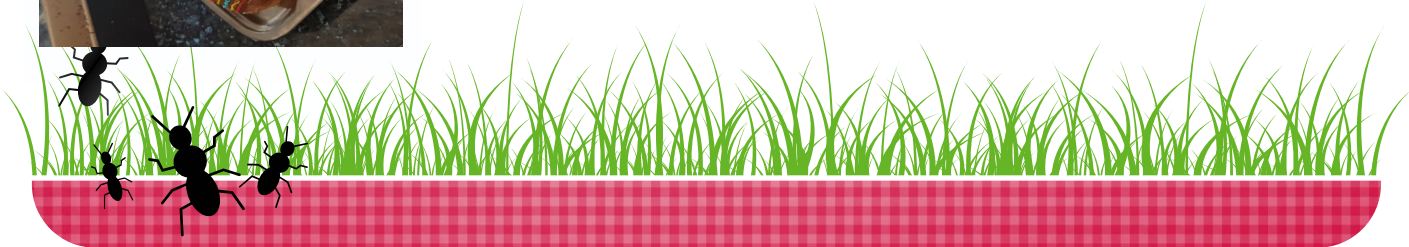
If you do not have the carers annual leave form please ask your supervising social worker for a copy or email Bayley on admin1@familyfostering.co.uk and she can send this over to you.

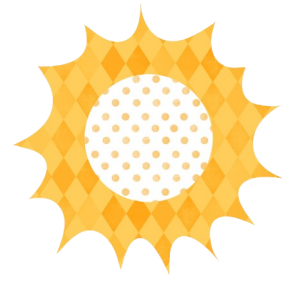
**DBS:**

Having a valid DBS for anyone who is around a young person is extremely important, which is why we are constantly chasing this up with carers. The following people must have a DBS if at a fostering household:

*Household members, Regular visitors, Back up carers, Support network, Staying put young people.*

If you are unsure of what documents are needed to undertake a DBS please email Bayley on admin1@familyfostering.co.uk.





## Important information & Placement updates:

Just a reminder to all carers that Noor Snr is the complaints officer so any complaints, concerns or problems, as you know you can contact him and he will be available to you.

Also can we please remind carers that all school reports, PEP reports and LAC medicals are sent to the office for our records. This is extremely important so can we please ask that carers send these regularly when they're received.

Also some positive news is that Family First Fostering have refurbished our website which will be going live. When it goes live we will be sending out an announcement to all carers, so please go and check it out and share, share, share!!!

Just to inform you home visits will be returning in August, your supervising social worker will discuss this with you when

scheduling meetings.

Again we want to thank all foster carers for what they do on a daily basis. Your hard work and dedication never goes unnoticed and we thank you for that!

### Placements:

Due to COVID-19 local authority social workers are working from home, due to this there has been more challenging placements coming through. As a result of this placement moves only occur due to breakdowns.

We believe as easing of restrictions occur and social workers return to home visits that less challenging placements will become available and these referrals will be shared with you .

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*"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does"*

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### Training:

During lockdown the agency has been booking and planning regular training. Firstly, we would like to thank all those carers who took part in this training and regularly attended, the turnout has always been really positive and we thank all those who took the time to attend.

We really appreciate carers feedback and recommendations for training so any you may have do not hesitate to contact the office regarding this.

Can we please remind carers that they must all complete a minimum of 8 trainings per year, that is five online and three face to face. We do ask carers to ensure this is completed, including if in a couple both foster carers.

Also just a reminder that all carers must complete their pediatric first aid training, Nadina will be contacting all those who haven't completed the course to ensure you are enrolled. We will do our best to ensure it fits around your schedule at that the venue is as close to your home as possible. If you would like to discuss a first aid course with Nadina please contact her on [admin2@familyfostering.co.uk](mailto:admin2@familyfostering.co.uk) but she will be making her way through the list to contact carers with this course

outstanding.

A few carers have mentioned they cannot access their online training on Social Care Training Solutions, if you continue to have this problem please contact Bayley and she can retrieve your log in details. Once carers complete their online training can you please ensure you save the certificate and email it over to Bayley otherwise we cannot credit you for completing this course.

Any problems, questions or concerns regarding training do not hesitate to contact the office who are happy to help.

