



About the Family Link Service

Derby Family Link is a Derby City Council service which provides high quality care for disabled children in the homes of approved Link Foster Carers.

By providing this care, our Family Link carers are helping a family by giving them the quality time they need to 'recharge their batteries' in addition to giving their child the chance to:

- Enjoy fun activities and have new experiences
- Meet new people and build new friendships
- Have opportunities to become more independent
- Develop their social skills
- Build their confidence.

Link foster care offers short breaks to eligible families which can range from day care and overnight stays to regular weekends. This can be flexible depending on the needs of the child and their family.

"We have always found working within the link scheme very rewarding as not only does the child get dedicated time, his/her family get a real break too"

If you would like more information please contact us on **01332 640880**
minicom: **01332 640666**
email: **fostering@derby.gov.uk**
or visit **derby.gov.uk/fostering**

We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it.

Please contact us on: 01332 640880
Minicom: 01332 640666

Polish

Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku.
Prosimy o kontakt: 01332 640880 Tel. tekstowy: 01332 640666

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਥੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ, ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇਸ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ 01332 640880 ਮਿਲੀਕਮ 01332 640666 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Slovakian

Túto informáciu vám môžeme poskytnúť iným spôsobom, štýlom alebo v inom jazyku, ktorý vám pomôže k jej sprístupneniu. Skontaktujte nás prosím na tel.č: 01332 640880 Minicom 01332 640666

Urdu

یہ معلومات ہم آپ کو کسی دیگر طریقے، انداز اور زبان میں بھیجا کر سکتے ہیں جو اس تک رسائی میں آپ کی مدد کرے۔ براہ کرم 01332 640880 پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔



Derby City Council

The Council House, Corporation Street,
Derby DE1 2FS

derby.gov.uk

Derby Family Link Fostering



Offering short breaks for
children with disabilities



Derby City Council

Family Link Carers

Our Family Link Carers are vetted, trained and assessed to care for disabled children.

We carefully match the skills, experience and interests of our carers with the needs and interests of the children using the service.

Our carers support children in a variety of ways. This can include personal care such as feeding, washing, bathing and toileting. If a child needs medication or any additional nursing procedures our carers will be trained to do this by a health professional.

Family Link Carers also provide a service for children with a variety of communication needs which may include Makaton and PECS.

The main aim is to ensure that the children have fun and the opportunity to access new experiences.



Becoming a Family Link Carer

Prospective carers are not required to have qualifications but most will have some related experience and we would expect all applicants to have a genuine interest in caring for and wanting to enrich the lives of disabled children.

As well as being over the age of 21, family link foster carers need to have:

- patience
- energy
- the ability to deal with challenging situations
- the ability to build relationships with children and their families
- a spare bedroom

There is an expectation that Family Link Carers attend a range of mandatory training. Other training is available to meet specific children's needs such as communicating with disabled children, moving and handling, epilepsy and autism.

Each carer is supported by a fostering social worker who will meet you on a regular basis to discuss the children placed with you.

"We think link care is really essential not only for the clients we care for but for the families who without the support would not get the well-deserved respite they need"

"We all enjoy going swimming, visiting the café and playing in the park on the link care days"

"Our 'links' have resulted in long term family friendships even after the child is no longer receiving the service"

The Assessment Process

The assessment process normally takes around 6 months from application to approval.

After making an initial enquiry the service will arrange for a social worker to visit you at home to talk about Family Link Care in more detail and answer any questions you may have.

If you decide to proceed following the visit, you will be invited to make a formal application. Once we receive your application the assessment process will begin.

We will undertake some initial checks and references, including:

- DBS
- Medical
- Personal references
- Employment references

While the checks are undertaken a social worker will be allocated to undertake a home study assessment. This will cover your family life, your skills and competencies in caring for children, and your motivation for becoming a Family Link Carer.

Once the checks and assessment report are completed, the information will be presented to Derby Fostering panel, who will make a recommendation regarding your approval.

"Me, my husband and 3 children have enjoyed doing link care because we feel we have an addition to our family. We all enjoy the visits and look forward to them each time"