



Diversity Foster Care

embracing all cultures



**CHILDREN'S
HANDBOOK**



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Hello,

My name is Rosemarie Ross. I am one of the managers at Diversity Foster Care, and we are here to help your carers look after you.

We want to make sure that you are happy with your foster home and have all the things you need. We also want to make sure that you always have someone to talk to if you have a problem.

A long time ago, as a child, I was in foster care. I understand some of the things that you might be worried about. There are lots of people that are here to help you, such as your foster carer or your social worker. However, if you feel that it might be difficult for you to speak to them, please contact me on 07710392981.

I usually visit children when they are first placed with our foster carers. This is so I can get to know all of our children. I look forward to meeting you.



Rosemarie Ross



Rosa Simpson

Our fostering agency is called Diversity Foster Care. We will make sure you have a warm, safe and happy foster home.

We want to make sure that you are happy and would like you to tell us how you feel. We will listen to you and try to help.

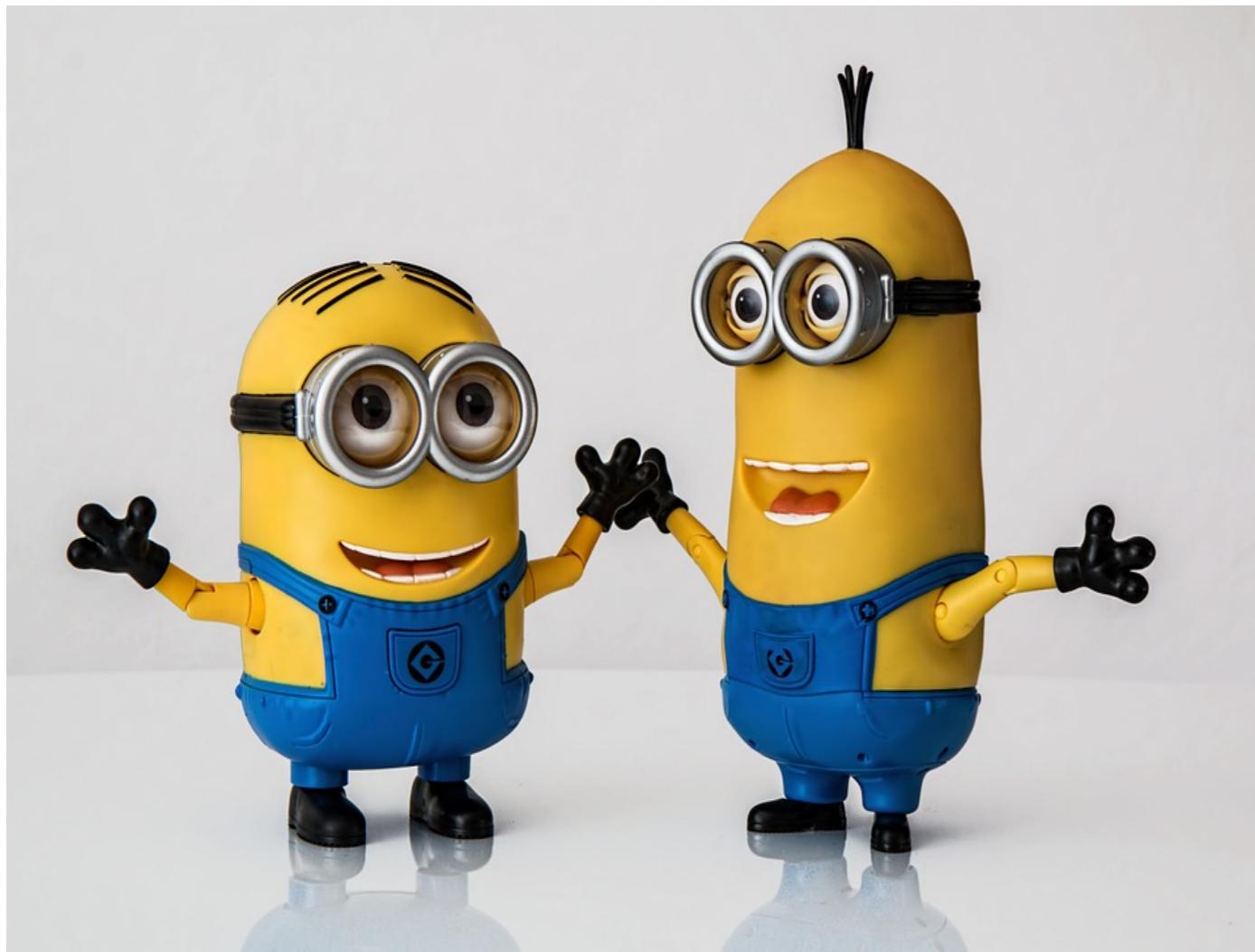
If you are unhappy you can talk to your foster carer, your social worker or someone in the fostering agency.



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WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Foster Care means that you will be living with a different family, your mum or dad will not be in the foster family with you, but you may still be able to see them.

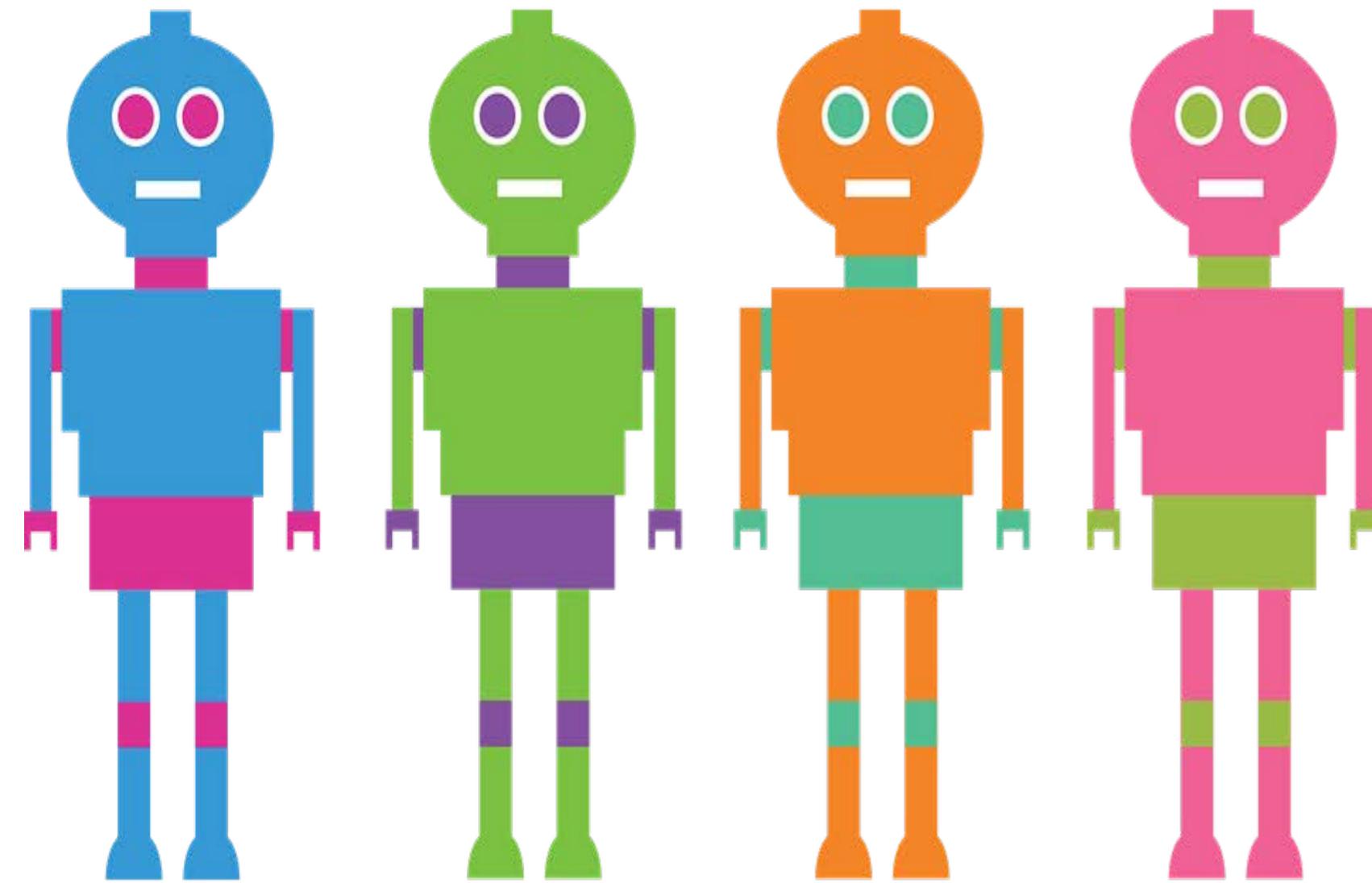
Being away from your family can sometimes be upsetting. Your social worker is there to talk and will listen when you tell them how you are feeling.



WHAT IS A FOSTER FAMILY?

A foster family is just an ordinary family. Some may have other foster children living with them, or their own children. Some will have their own children *and* other children. Some may even have a pet.

We try to make sure that you meet your new foster family before you move in but this does not always happen. If it doesn't happen your social worker will tell you about them and you will be able to ask questions.



WHY DO I NEED TO BE WITH A FOSTER FAMILY?

There are lots of reasons for being in foster care and your social worker will explain to you why you are away from your family. Many children all over the world live with foster families and this is because of sad or difficult things at home which need to be made better.

HOW LONG WILL I STAY WITH A FOSTER FAMILY?

Your social worker will tell you. Some children stay for only a few days and some stay longer.



WHAT IS A SOCIAL WORKER?

A social worker is specially trained and works for the council or a fostering agency. Your social worker will make plans for you to ensure you are safe and happy.

Your foster family will have their own social worker who is called a supervising social worker. Your social worker and supervising social worker will visit you and come to the foster home regularly so that you can be supported.



Do you know about the DFC newsletter?

Every few months we will send you out a copy of our latest newsletter via email.

In it, you can learn more about the agency, learn about how to get in contact with us, and also hear from other foster children.

Want to get involved?

Do a drawing, write an article or even boast about your latest achievement!

Send us anything you want and you will feature in the next issue of the DFC newsletter!

Will my foster carers be the same as me?

We will always try to find a foster family who is from the same background as you but if not it will be a family that we know can welcome you. We will talk to you about what would make you happy in foster placement so that you can feel settled and safe.



With Diversity Foster Care we will help you to –

- Be healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic well being

These are the government's and our wishes for every child and young person, whatever their background or circumstances.

You have the right to live in a safe, comfortable home with –

- Wholesome, healthy food, warmth and clothes.
- Your own place to keep your things.
- A telephone to make private calls (unless a judge or your care plan says you cannot).
- You will be treated nicely and with respect.
- You will be told what the plans are for you and your future.

BEDROOM

You will have your own bedroom, unless you have a brother or a sister with you.

POCKET MONEY

You will be given pocket money, but the amount will depend on your age. Your foster carer will talk to you about this.

EDUCATION

Your Foster carer, along with your social worker, will try to ensure you are still able to go to the school that you know.

YOUR FUTURE PLANS

We will talk to you about why you are in care. We would like to know what you want and what you think about the plans.

WILL I BE ABLE TO SEE MY OWN FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

We want to help you to still see your family and maybe your friends. You and your social worker will talk about this when you move into the foster home.

MOVING BACK IN WITH YOUR FAMILY

If the difficulties in your family are sorted out then your social worker may help you move back to your family, but only if this is the plan and they feel you will be safe.



USEFUL WEBSITES

If you are sad you can sometimes speak to your foster carer, social worker, teacher. You can also speak to your supervising social worker who visits your foster carer. If you want to speak to someone else who will listen to you, here are some numbers that you can ring.

You can ask your foster carer to help with this.

Childline 0800 1111

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline:
0808 800 5000 (free) open 24 hrs
0800 056 0566 (free) for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

The Children's Legal Centre
Tel: 01206 873820
Web: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Commissioner
Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street,
London,
SW1p 3BJ
Tel: 0207 783 8330

OFSTED
Piccadilly Gate,
Store Street,
Manchester,
M1 2WP
Tel: 0300 123 1231
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk



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