

# Holidays with looked after children

School holidays are here and it's a great opportunity for foster carers to spend quality time with the children they look after. It can however bring its own challenges and it's important that carers have measures in place to keep themselves and their foster children safe.

## Here are a few holiday tips:

- Be clear what your specific areas of delegated responsibilities are. If you are unsure ask your supervising social worker because this will make it clear what decisions you can take without seeking permission and what and who you should speak to if you don't have delegation authority in some areas
- Make sure you know and follow your fostering service's policies on visits to friends, overnight stays and holidays
- If you are planning a holiday, speak to your supervising social worker about a holiday risk assessment and safer caring plan for your trip
- Make sure all holiday arrangements are agreed in advance to avoid last minutes changes or disappointments
- Discuss with your supervising social worker the potential impact of the holiday upon the child's usual contact arrangements and gain agreement for any necessary changes that need to be made
- Make sure you have spoken to your social worker about how you will manage changes to routine whilst on holiday such as sleeping arrangements, supervision of children and any holiday companions as well as how you contact your fostering service whilst on holiday if you have a problem
- Make sure you are clear about what recordings you are expected to make and if there are any changes to 'normal recording arrangements'

Remember FosterTalk is here to help and advise, you can call anytime if you are worried or concerned or just want general helpline advice. We have a dedicated discounts sections on our website where lots of days outs and holiday offers can be used to save you money.

If things do go wrong and holiday plans lead to any allegations or concerns about how you managed holiday arrangements we also have our Foster carers Independent Support Service (“FISS”) service that gives foster carers specific support during an allegation.

