

Working as a Family Based Short Break Carer

What Is Involved?

Family based short breaks offer a regular overnight or weekend break at your home once a month or up to 26 days or more a year to a child or young person with disabilities. It gives the child an opportunity to meet new friends and have some fun while giving the family valuable time to relax and recharge their batteries.

The scheme provides care for children with a range of disabilities. Some may have a physical disability, sensory impairment, learning difficulties or autism. Additionally, we may have some children who have complex health needs.

Providing shared care can be extremely rewarding as you are helping the whole family. You and your own family too can benefit from establishing a positive relationship with a child with disabilities and seeing the enjoyment and delight they experience.

Is This Right for Me?

You may be single, married or living together or in a same sex relationship. You could live in rented or owned property, with or without your own children and single parents of both sexes are welcome. We consider applicants from all religious backgrounds whether practicing or not. What matters to us is that you care about caring for disabled children and want to learn new skills to help them and want to keep children safe.

We would also expect you to;

- Have enough room for a child to stay overnight.
- Be living in or near to Islington.
- Be able to be linked to one child for at least 26 days a year (one weekend a month)
- Be flexible and understanding of children with disabilities.
- Have a sense of humour and a willingness to learn and enjoy a challenge.
- Have time, energy and enthusiasm for a child and their interests.

What Experience/Qualifications Do I Need?

You do not need any formal qualifications or experience with children with disabilities to be a family based short break carer for Islington, but you will need to be enthusiastic, patient, fun loving, flexible and ready for anything.

How Can I Become a Family Based Short Breaks Carer?

We run regular information sessions where you can attend and find out more information. Please call for details of the next meeting. The information session provides the opportunity to hear more about short break schemes and ask the team any questions you may have.

Successful applicants will then be visited at their home and invited to a 3-day training course which may involve evenings and a Saturday. Full references, medical and CRB

(Criminal Record Bureau) checks will be taken up on all applicants in line with legal requirements. The overall process from our first visit to you to your approval as a family based short break carer can take up to six months so please be patient.

How Much Could I Earn?

You will receive a financial allowance of £112 for an overnight stay that will help you provide quality experiences for a child. Islington will also help with any basic specialist equipment you may need.

Further Training

We will be there every step of the way as Islington offer 24 hour support, training and plenty of help and encouragement through your own dedicated social worker.

Useful Contacts:

Islington family based short breaks
www.islington.gov.uk/shortbreaks

0800 073 0428

Recruitment Duty Social Worker (Islington)

0207 527 7933

Shared Care Network

www.sharededcarenetwork.org.uk