

# Could you foster?

*Emma\*, age 10*

\*Name changed and stock image used to protect child's identity



Emma\* is a caring, well-mannered ten-year-old with big blue eyes and long eyelashes. Her foster carers describe her as a 'girly' girl as she loves wearing dresses, playing with Barbie dolls, and having her hair styled with bows.

Emma has lived with her current foster carers for 13 months. She enjoys playing with other children and trips to the park. Emma loves exploring the outdoors, particularly the messier activities where she can make good use of her first pair of wellies!

She is also proud of her achievements in learning to ride her bike, tie her laces and, most recently, become more confident in the swimming pool. Emma has become a keen camogie and football player and thrives on the fun and friendship that comes with being involved in sport and being part of a team.

Whilst Emma enjoys the company of others to build puzzles, watch movies or play games, she is equally content in her own company and will spend considerable time playing with her dolls which gives her the opportunity to engage in the imaginative play that she missed out on when she was younger.

Living in foster care has provided Emma with many new experiences such as her first time at the beach, or having a picnic. As well as being enjoyable for Emma, these 'firsts' offer a real sense of reward for those who care for her as they make a marked difference to her life experiences.

Emma has just started Primary 6. She loves school and hopes to stay here until she is ready to move onto secondary education. She likes to read and is always keen to complete her homework tasks.

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Emma enjoys good health and is willing to try a variety of food although she isn't keen on spaghetti hoops! Emma's foster carer is supporting her to develop her independence however she continues to need encouragement in terms of deciding what to wear, and with promoting her self-care skills.



Emma needs a long-term foster home in the southern trust area where she can feel part of a family. Her foster carer(s) will offer love and understanding, whilst also supporting her in maintaining contact with her birth father which is currently 2.5 hours each week.

#### As Emma's foster carer(s) you will receive:

- training to help you understand the needs of children, like Emma, who need foster care
- financial allowances
- advice and guidance from Emma's social worker and other professionals involved in his life
- regular contact from your supervising social worker through text, telephone and home visits
- out-of-hours support from the Regional Emergency Social Work Service (includes evenings, weekends, bank holidays).

To find out more about Emma, register for our upcoming virtual information session by contacting **0800 0720137** or email [info@fostering.hscni.net](mailto:info@fostering.hscni.net)

**Date: Wednesday 4 October 2023**

**Time: 8pm-9pm**