

Could you foster?

Jake*, age 10

*Name changed used to protect

Jake* is a chatty boy with a good sense of humour and a contagious laugh. He has lots of endearing qualities and everyone speaks positively about him. Jake is looking forward to turning 11 very soon.

Jake loves playing the Nintendo and he is skilful in a number of games. He likes watching funny videos on YouTube, playing UNO and chess, and going to the cinema or bowling alley with his foster family.

Jake has recently started Primary 7 where he interacts well with his friends. They have invited him to parties and play dates, and will play football or hide-and-seek outside together. He enjoyed a residential to Shannaghmore Outdoor Learning Centre in Newcastle with his friends this year where he loved the various activities as he is always willing to try something new. Jake is looking forward to a school trip to London next year.

Jake's favourite foods are pancakes, pizza, spaghetti bolognese and chicken nuggets. He has a sweet tooth and loves slushies and Lotus Biscoff spread.

Jake loves dogs and is very kind to them; he will comfortably sit up on the sofa beside them. Jake welcomes hugs from others and will seek the approval of and connection with adults. He has a good imagination and likes to share stories that he has written. He will talk about cars, computer games and new things that he has learned. When Jake's excited he will talk fast and become animated with his hand movements. He also talks about his soft teddies and finds comfort in them.

When times are tough for Jake he is less likely to display his fun-loving self. Jake has experienced instability in his life and can have difficulty regulating his emotions when he can't think, reflect or communicate what he needs.



Could you foster?

Jake*, age 10

*Name changed
used to protect

Jake needs a long-term placement with foster carer(s) who are calm and compassionate, and also curious to understand the reasons behind his behaviours. He needs someone who will stay alongside him when he needs support, remind him that it's ok to have big feelings, and in time, teach him new ways to express himself and cope with how he is feeling. Support will be available from a team of professionals to help the foster carer(s) manage this.

Jake benefits from a gentle and caring approach. He also thrives when his routine and boundaries are consistent. Jake is quite independent around the home and will use electronic devices such as Alexa to wake him up in the morning, allowing time to get dressed and have breakfast before leaving for school.

While living in foster care Jake often thinks about his family and considers buying his younger siblings gifts with his pocket money. He loves his family very much. Jake treasures a photograph of himself alongside his siblings as his locked screen on his phone. It is unfortunate that they cannot be cared for together because of their individual needs. It is hoped that Jake's new foster family can support him in keeping in touch with his family.

As Jake's foster carer(s) you will receive:

- training to help you understand the needs of children, like Jake, who need foster care
- financial allowances
- advice and guidance from Jake'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 Jake, register for our upcoming virtual information session by contacting **0800 0720137** or email info@fostering.hscni.net

Date: Wednesday 4 October 2023
Time: 7pm – 8pm