

What children said about being in care



Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



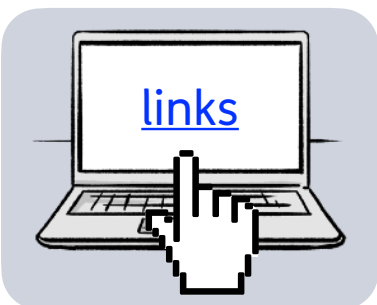
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



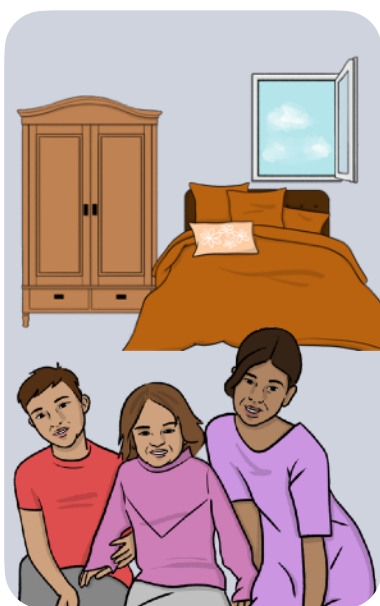
Ofsted looks at nurseries, schools and colleges to make sure children are taught as well as possible.



We also look at **children's social care**. This is when children are looked after by someone who is not in their family.



Every year we ask children in social care about what they think of where they live.



We ask children and young people who live:

- In children's homes.
- With a foster carer.
- In a school or college.



We use what children and young people tell us to decide where and when we need to check next.



Some answers help us to find out about problems we must deal with before they get worse.

Background



This year, more than 6,500 children and young people answered our questions.

The main things that we found out were:



- Most children said that they saw the people who were important to them always or most of the time.



- More children and young people living in schools or colleges felt safer than last year.

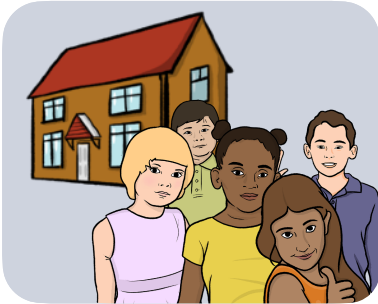


- Nearly all children who live in foster care feel safe.

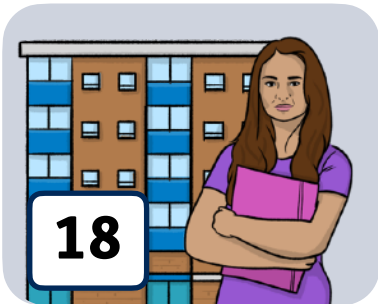
Other main things that we found out were:



- More children said they had done something fun in the last week.



- Most children who live in children's homes said they got along with the other children and adults they live with.



- Children living in children's homes and foster care said they wanted to stay living where they were until they were 18.

What children told us



We asked children different questions about where they live.

For each question, we will tell you:



- What we asked.



- What we found out.



- What children and young people said.

What we asked



We asked children if they felt safe where they lived or stayed.

What we found out



Around 9 out of 10 children in care homes said they felt safe always or most of the time.



Almost all children in foster care said they always felt safe.



A small number of children living in schools or colleges said they felt safe only sometimes or never.

What children and young people said

“I feel safe and happy in my boarding house, the staff members make it only an enjoyable but also **disciplined environment.**”

Disciplined means that people follow the rules.

Environment means the space around you.

“Another resident sometimes scares me at night time when he is shouting or banging on the walls.

This is the only thing I can think of that makes me feel unsafe.”

“I think it’s a safe space and if anyone ever had a problem you can go see the **wardens**, call them or email them for help. They are always supportive with problems and helpful in areas you wouldn’t expect.”

Wardens are people who are in charge of the safety of buildings.

“I enjoy staying at college as it has helped me to become more confident and **independent** knowing that I have support there if needed from the college.”

Independent means being able to do things on your own.

What we asked



We asked how well children and young people get on with the adults where they live.

What we found out



9 out of 10 children said they got on with the adults where they lived always or most of the time.



1 out of 10 children living in schools or colleges said they get on with the adults there only sometimes or never.

What children and young people said

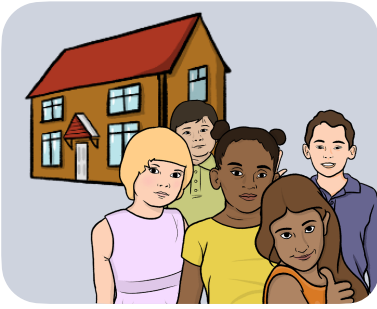
“It doesn’t feel homely I would like more male staff because there are too many females and I would like to do more manly stuff like paint balling, air softing or bike rides.”

“I can talk about anything to my foster carer. We get on well, I like the fact that the area is quiet.”

“This place is quite good as most people are nice and kind. However, the facility are quite old and sometimes the staff does not give you time to explain, and gives you unfair punishment. This issue have slight improvement during recent and I always feels safe about this environment.”

“Staff nice and I get on with them well, I get to choose things in the house and in my room.”

What we asked



We asked how well children and young people get on with the other children they live or stay with.

What we found out



Most children get on with other children where they live always or most of the time.



3 out of 4 children in children's homes said they got on well always or most of the time.



This is lower than the number of children who get on with adults they live with.



9 out of 10 children in foster care said they get on with children they live with always or most of the time.

What children and young people said

“I enjoy school. I have lots of friends. It is right by a park where I meeting my friends. My carers take me swimming and to the shops.”

“I enjoy staying here however it is sometimes stressful due to the behaviour of other students and noise levels.”

“**Boarding** is very fun and it is really fun living with your mates.”

Boarding means living at the school you go to.

“It’s a bit fun but can be a bit noisy. Staff are really nice and they are fun.”

What we asked



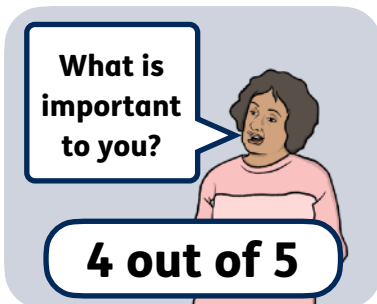
We asked children and young people if the adults where they live:

- Ask them about things that are important to them.

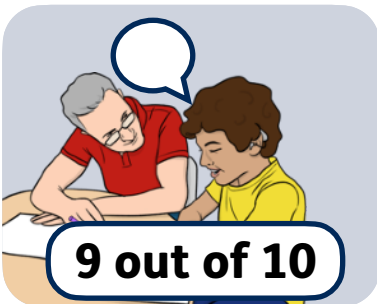


- Listen to them.

What we found out



Over 4 out of 5 children feel that adults ask about things that are important to them always or most of the time.



9 out of 10 children said that adults where they live listen to them always or most of the time.



More children and young people who live at school or college said adults listen to them only sometimes or never.

What children and young people said

“I feel safe and am happy with my home. The staff are always there to support, comfort and listen to my thoughts and wishes. I get to see my family each week and I am very happy about this. Staff will take me to and from my school each day and take me out to all of my chosen activities.”

“I enjoy living at my children’s home, we do fun stuff I enjoy when I’ve been to school like go to a restaurant. They ask me how school was and support me the best they can do.”

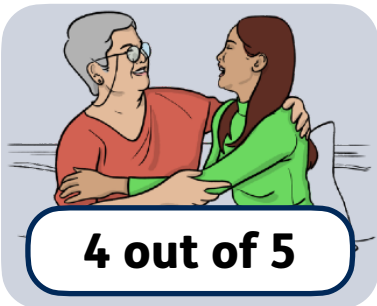
“The Foster give me right and they try to solve my issues in education. They are always available to listen and talk with me about how I getting on with education and mental issue.”

What we asked



We asked children and young people if they spend time with people who are important to them.

What we found out



Nearly 4 out of 5 children said they saw the people who are important to them always or most of the time.



More than 4 out of 5 children who stay in **special schools** said they see the people who are important to them always or most of the time.

Special schools are for children and young people who have extra needs.

What children and young people said

“My carers are great, this is my first stay away from home and I was very scared, but they made me feel welcome and part of their family. I really struggled going to sleep at first, but my carers were really good with me, sitting at the end of my bed for hours till I fell asleep.”

“I would like to see my mum and dad more. Better WIFI would be good. We need to finish back garden as I like to play football. I think my room is the best. I like everything about my room. The staff are sound.”

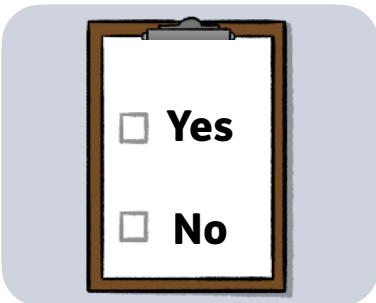
“It is a nice care home but I would not want to live here for a long time because I want to go back to London to live with my mum or dad.”

What we asked

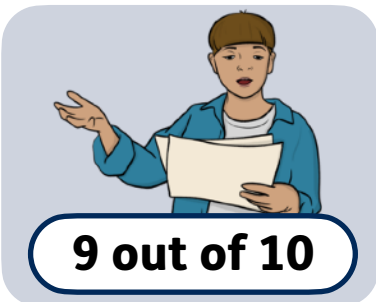


We asked children and young people if they had done something fun in the last week.

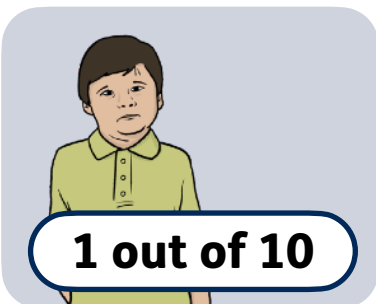
What we found out



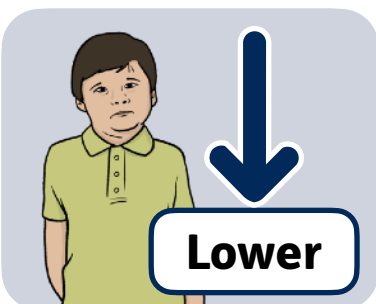
We gave children a choice to answer yes or no for this question.



9 out of 10 children said yes, they had done something fun in the last week.



Only 1 in 10 children said no, they had not done something fun in the last week.



This is a lot lower than last year, when nearly 2 in 10 children said they never did anything fun.

What children and young people said

“I enjoy playing sports in the free time, I love spending time with my friends and relatives. Also we have a common room where we can watch tv and documentary. I learned English as I am from France. I learned how to play dodgeball as I used to be scared of the ball but after a few time of playing I got better and managed to get a certificate for best at sport.”

“It can be fun we do decent activities every now and again for example football matches, I go and watch Sheffield Wednesday (we are on top of the league) I have a customised room (just waiting for a wall to be painted).”

“It’s a good place to live and where I can do lots of fun activities, like going out with family to restaurants and other good places.”

What we asked



We asked children and young people if there was anything they would like to tell us about the place where they live.

What we found out



One of the most common answers to this question was saying the place they live or stay is a good place.



They talked about it being brilliant or using similar words.



Half of children were happy with the amount of free time they had and half said they did not have enough free time.



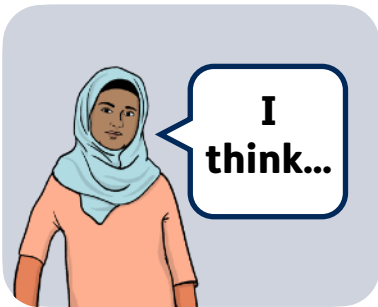
Children mainly said good things about the staff where they live or stay.

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who:



- Answered our questions.



- Told us what they think.

Find out more



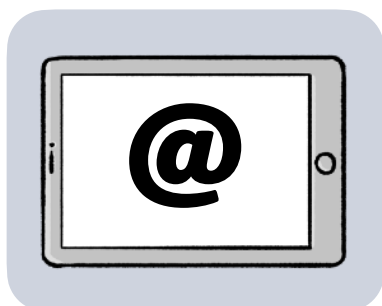
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