

# What children said about being in care in 2024



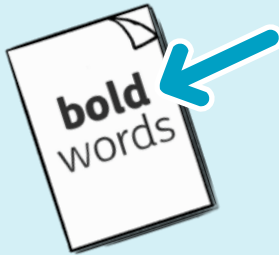
# Easy Read



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.



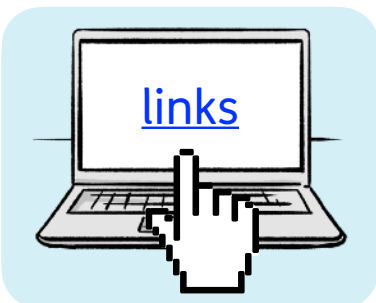
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



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.

# What is in this booklet

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# About this booklet



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



And importantly, we also look at **children's social care**.



Every year we ask people what they think about children's social care.



We ask children and young people who live:

- In children's homes and supported accommodation.
- With a foster carer.  
**A foster carer** looks after children who cannot live with their own parents.
- In a school or college.

We use what children and young people tell us to decide:



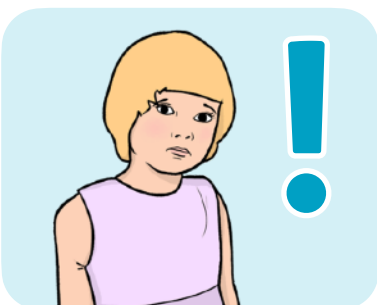
- Where we need to check next.



- What we need to check.



- When we should do the check.



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

# What we found out



This part of the booklet will tell you about what the children and young people said.



More than 40,000 people answered our questions.



Nearly 7,000 of those people were children or young people who live in or have contact with children's social care.

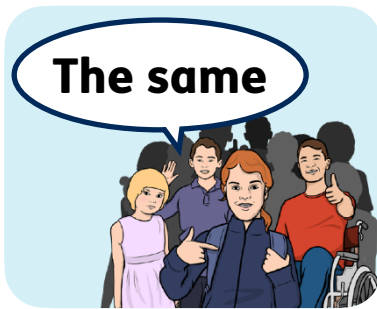


More children and young people answered our questions this year than last year.



We asked the questions online.

The main things we found out were:



- The answers the children gave were about the same as the answers from last year.



- Most of the children said that they were happy with:

- Where they live.



- The people they see and talk to.



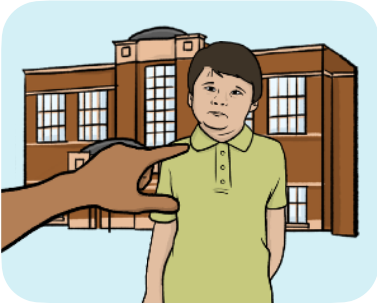
- Nearly all the children said they felt safe where they live.



- But this year, more children who live in special schools said they did not feel safe all the time.

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

## Children in special schools



Children in special schools were most likely to say they did not get on with other children.



But they were also most likely to spend time with people who are important to them.

## Children in supported accommodation



**Supported accommodation** is housing where children aged 16 to 17 can get support and learn how to be independent.





Almost all children in supported accommodation said they felt safe.



But they were least likely to spend time with people who are important to them.

## Children in foster care



Children in foster care were more likely to say they get on with other children in the household.



This year, more children in foster care said they spend time with people who are important to them than last year.

# 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



Almost all children in care homes said they felt safe always or most of the time.



Almost all children in foster care said they felt safe.



Almost all children in supported accommodation said they 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

“There is constantly kicking off which from my past trauma it makes me feel unsafe and the staff are ok but sometimes I get scared of them I don't know why.”

“I worry when staff leave the home to work in other places.”

“Well it's just weird being away from home. I kind of don't know the people here as well as my family and friends so I am not sure I can trust everyone here but it is decent.”

“I really like living here because it gives me a feeling of **security**.”

**Security** means feeling safe.

## 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 get on with the adults where they live always or most of the time.



Nearly 1 out of 6 children living in schools said they get on with the adults there only sometimes or never, which is more than last year.

## What children and young people said

“I always feel very safe and listened to around the staff and other children who live in the house, I always get to do exciting activities and I always have a fun time inside the house because the staff here make it very enjoyable. I love living at the home.”

“I like the staff they are always kind they always care and if you are upset you can talk to them and the young people that you get put with you always fit in we all get along and it is a nice house always clean.”

“The staff are so nice and friendly and i could not have asked for more support than i have been given since my time here. The staff have help me through a difficult time over the past couple of months and all their help I really am thankful.”

“That my carers are really nice and funny I don't ever want to leave them I even learned how to use a drill all because of my dad (foster) even when we fall out I love them to bits.”

## 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 well with the other children where they live always or most of the time.



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



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



# What children and young people said

“The home in which I live in is fun and everyone gets along I have a good relationship with the other children in the household and I also have a good relationship with my foster carers and I am extremely happy to be living in foster carers care.”

“I like all my friends and school, I get to play with them regularly and we go swimming, cinema, play tennis and go out for dinner.”

“My new home is a lovely home to live in.”

“The children in the home are lovely and staff are friendly.”

## What we asked

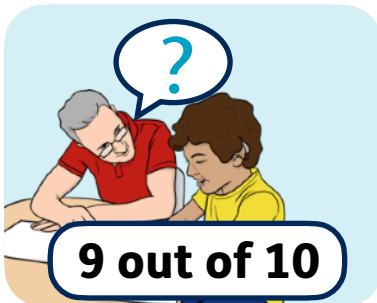


We asked children and young people if the adults where they live ask them about things that are important to them.

## What we found out



The number of children in children's homes and foster care who said the adults asked them about this stayed about the same as last year.



9 out of 10 children in supported accommodation said that adults asked them about things that were important.



More children and young people who live at school or college said adults asked them about things that were important only sometimes or never.

## What children and young people said

“I feel safe, I have a good relationship with my adults, I feel like I can talk to them about things that are important, doesn't matter what it is”

“I have an important part of the family who care about me. I can be myself.”

“This school has been a great boarding experience and I think that it is very good at keeping their students safe. It has also helped me become more independent and they have made me ask myself the important questions about my future that I wouldn't have done on my own.”

“Staff know what is important for me and always help me to do things I need. they help me see my family and friends, I like it here so much and they are very kind and caring.”

## What we asked

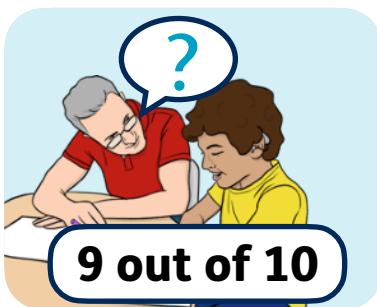


We asked children and young people if the adults where they live listen to them.

## What we found out



The number of children in children's homes and foster care who said the adults listened to them stayed about the same as last year.



9 out of 10 children in supported accommodation said that the adults listen to them always or most of the time.



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

## What children and young people said

“I cannot fault our residential staff at all they are amazing and always reassure you and make you feel safe. They’re amazing.”

“They listen when I ask for overnights with family and my boyfriend. They help me get to work and college. They care and keep me safe.”

“The staff is very caring and they listen to everything that I have to say, they are very supportive with what I do and they don’t judge me for anything. I feel very listened to here.”

“Staff support us with anything we need and they always try to talk to us and make us feel as if this is our home.”

## 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 spend time with 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 spend time with 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

“I like living where we do... it’s near my friend and I didn’t have to change my school. She listens to us and makes sure we get to see our Mum and sisters. She’s kind and makes a good hot chocolate.”

“Staff help me with my independence. They help make sure I see my mum and brothers every week and keep them up to date with all of my fun or anything important.”

“The home is sweet, the staff are nice and caring and it is closer to where my mum lives.”

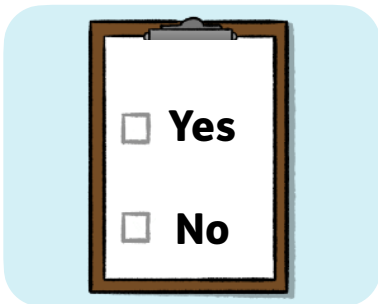
“I call my foster carers mum and dad and their children are my brothers and sisters. I am an only child and always wanted brothers and sisters.”

## What we asked

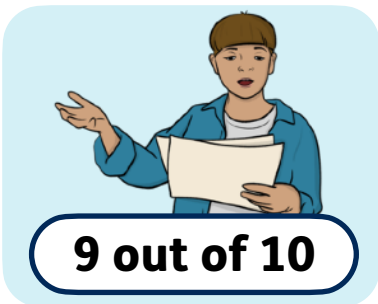


We asked children and young people if they had done something fun in the last week.

## What we found out



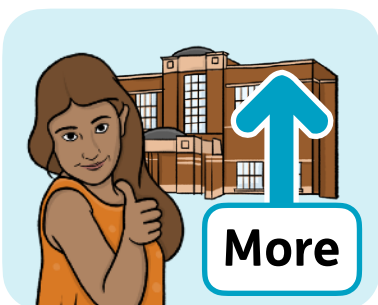
We gave children a choice to answer yes or no for this question.



9 out of 10 children living in children's homes or foster care said yes, they had done something fun in the last week.



More children and young people who live in school or college said they had not done something fun.



But more of them had done something fun in the last week this year than last year.



# What children and young people said

“It is fun because they do lots of fun stuff with the children who are there and they make you feel safe and happy. They also listen to what you have to say and make sure that you are happy and that you make the most out of your time there. So it is a pleasure to be there.”

“Staff help me with my independence. They help make sure I see my mum and brothers every week and keep them up to date with all of my fun or anything important.”

“I love that I get to go out all of the time and the staff take me swimming and im getting really good now.”

“My staff they listen to me and they help me to go to football matches and shopping, sometimes to college too.”

## What we asked



We asked children and young people if they wanted to tell us about the place where they live.

## What we found out



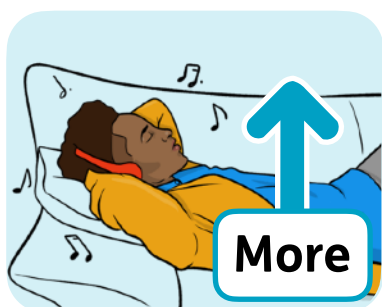
One of the most common answers that children gave to this question was that they were happy with the place they live or stay.



They talked about it being brilliant or used similar words.



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



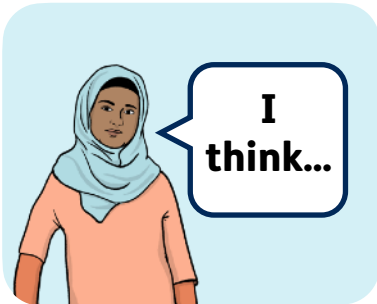
Some children said they would like to have more free time.

# Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who:



- Answered our questions.



- Told us what they think.

# Find out more

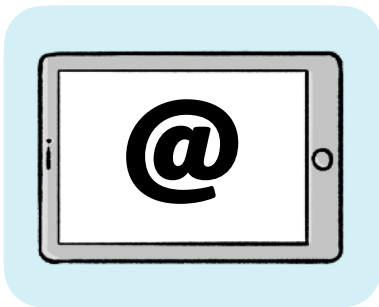


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