

What children said about being in care in 2025



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.



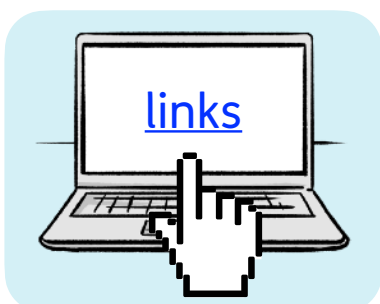
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



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

About this booklet.....	4
Where children live	5
How we asked children what they think.....	6
The main things we found out.....	8
What children said	10
Find out more	26



You can fill in a quick survey to say what you think about this Easy Read booklet:

www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey

About this booklet



This booklet is from Ofsted.

We check nurseries, schools and colleges to make sure children are taught as well as possible.



We also check **children's social care services**.

Children's social care services are services that look after and help children who need extra support.



Every year, we ask children what they think about where they live.

This booklet will explain what they said.

Where children live

Children may live in:



- A **children's home** - this is a home where a few children live together and are cared for by the staff there.



- A **foster home** - this is a private home where a child lives and is cared for by a family.



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

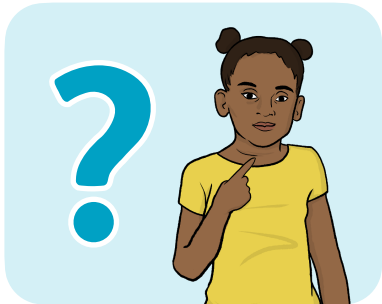


- A **residential school** - this is a school where children can live as well as learn.



- A **residential special school** - this is a residential school for children who have extra learning needs or disabilities.

How we asked children what they think



We asked children what they think of where they live by asking them questions.



We asked the questions using an online survey that children filled in.

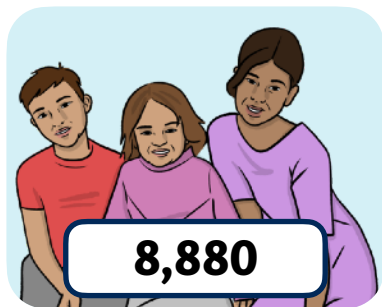
The survey included:



- Questions with answer choices for children to choose from.



- Questions where children could write their own comments.



This year, 8,880 children filled in the survey.



This is more than last year.

We use what children tell us to:



- Find out any problems with where a child is living.



- Decide which children's social care services we need to look at and when.

The main things we found out

Here are some of the main things we have found out:



- Most children are happy with where they live.



- Most children are happy with the staff or carers who care for them.



- Nearly all children feel safe where they live.



- Children living in a children's home were more likely than other children to have problems getting along with each other.

We also found out:



- Children living in supported accommodation were less likely than other children to spend time with people they care about and take part in fun activities.

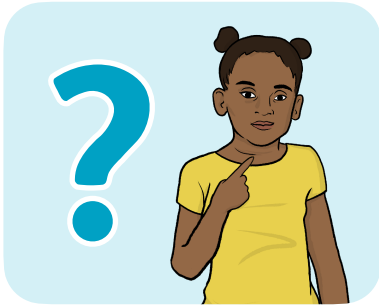


- Children living in a foster home were most likely to feel listened to by the people who support them.



- Children living in a residential school were less likely than other children to feel listened to by the people who support them.

What children said



Our survey asked children different questions about where they live.



For each question, we will tell you what we asked and what the children answered.

Question 1



We asked children whether they feel safe in the place where they live.



Almost all of the children said they feel safe where they live.



The number of children in residential special schools who said they feel safe where they live is higher than last year.

Here are some comments that some of the children made:

“I have a big bedroom and I feel welcome and safe. When I arrived they were welcoming to me and I have been going out in the local area to get used to it.”

“I feel safe and well cared for. I have lots of time with staff and family doing different activities that I enjoy.”

Question 2



We asked children how they feel about the staff or carers who care for them.



Almost all of the children said they feel happy with the staff or carers who care for them.



The number of children in residential special schools who said they feel happy with staff or carers is higher than last year.



Children in other residential schools were less likely than other children to feel happy with the staff or carers who care for them.

Here are some comments that some of the children made:

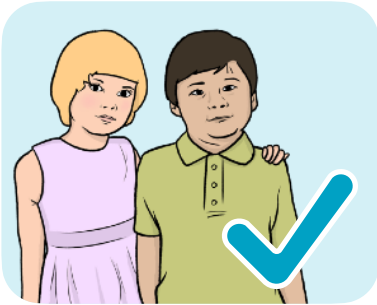
“I like my bedroom, the house is nice. The staff care about me. I always get to see my dad and nannie whenever I want. Staff enjoy watching me on my scooter. I like the food everyone makes. Staff encourage me to go to school and keep it up. Staff feel like friends and family.”

“I really enjoy staying at the college. The staff are very helpful and there is always someone there if you need to talk to someone. There is a large variety of activities so that means there is always something that’ll interest you and you can take part in social activities outside of the classroom. This provides me with a chance to try new things and to make friends or develop friendships I already have.”

Question 3



We asked children how they feel about the other children they live with.



Almost all of the children said they feel happy with and get along with the other children they live with.



Children living in a foster home were most likely to get along with the other children they live with.



Children living in a children's home were less likely than other children to get along with each other.



But the number of children in children's homes who said they get along with the other children they live with is higher than last year.

Here are some comments that some of the children made:

“I get on with some of the people I live with. I get to choose things to do and places I want to go. I am getting help and there are always people here I can talk to. Member of staff is the best cook our dog is great.”

“I like living here because the staff are really nice to me and the other kids i get on really well with and i have easy access to school and the local shops my room is really good and massive and is what i like about it the most.”

Question 4



We asked children whether the staff or carers who care for them ask about the things that are important to them.



Almost all of the children said staff or carers ask about the things that are important to them.



Children living in a foster home or supported accommodation were most likely to say staff or carers asked them about things that are important to them.



Children living in residential schools were less likely than other children to say staff or carers asked them things that are important to them.

Here are some comments that some of the children made:

“I think that the staff are all supportive and I get on well with most of them, they've made me feel comfortable in the placement and I feel like I can be open and honest with them.”

“It's a great place where the staff are supportive and all the help that I need is provided when or if I need it. The young people that I live with can be rather dramatic and like siblings rather frustrating to live with but that just comes with the nature of everybody living together 24/7.”

Question 5



We asked children whether the staff or carers who care for them listen to them.



Almost all of the children said staff or carers listened to them.



Children living in a foster home or supported accommodation were most likely to say staff or carers listened to them.



Children living in residential schools were less likely than other children to say staff or carers listened to them.



But the number of children in residential schools who said staff and carers **do** listen to them is higher than last year.

Here are some comments that some of the children made:

“They treat me good they listen to me and we do so much as a family that I don’t feel like I’m in care, it’s just so chill and relaxed but at same time a good routine which I like. They help me with anything and they get on with my family which I like.”

“I like it here because I can always speak to somebody when I want to either staff or the friends I've made here so I don't get bored. The staff always teach me stuff and help me with my money and shopping or I will spend it off straight away. I am working on this for when I get my flat and have to pay bills. I have done my universal credit as well with staff.”

Question 6



We asked children whether they get to spend time with the people who are important to them.



Almost all of the children said they get to spend time with the people who are important to them.



Children in residential special schools were most likely to say they get to spend time with the people who are important to them.



The number of children in residential special schools who get to spend time with people who are important to them has been going up over the last 2 years.



Children in supported accommodation were less likely than other children to say they get to spend time with the people who are important to them.

Here are some comments that some of the children made:

“We feel safe and cared for. We get to do fun stuff and we get lots of help with school and seeing our parents and family.”

“I am happy staying here. It is a clean and nice environment and nice people. But this sometimes difficult here because I don't have friends and family in around here they are further away and will prefer to be closer to them.”

Question 7



We asked children whether they had done something fun in the last week.



Almost all of the children said they had done something fun in the last week.



This is the same as last year.



But slightly fewer children living in residential schools and supported accommodation had done something fun than last year.

Here are some comments that some of the children made:

“It's a very welcoming place and the staff are very supportive. We do fun activities such as cinema, bike riding and bowling.”

“At our boarding house, its quite a lot of fun, but most weekends, everyone is just on there phones, no real fun activities that everyone actually enjoys. But now we are forced to do activities aren't fun. e.g boring arts and crafts in different houses.”

Question 8



We gave children the chance to give any more comments about where they live.



Many of the children used words like great, good and fun to describe where they live.



Many of the children also used words like nice, kind and supportive to describe the staff or carers where they live.

But some children made comments about problems where they live, such as:



- Not feeling listened to by staff or carers where they live.



- Living too far away from their family and friends.



Children living in a residential school often said they would like more free time and better food.

Find out more



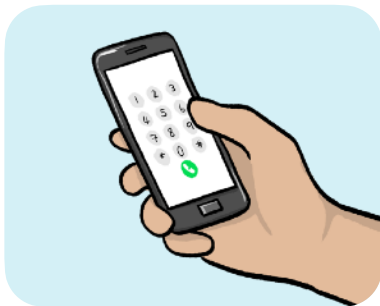
Thank you to everyone who filled in our survey.



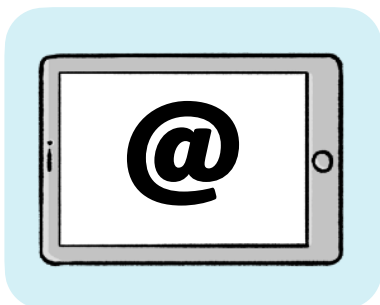
To find out more, you can look at our website here:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

Or you can contact us by:



- Phone: 0300 123 1231



- Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

This Easy Read booklet was produced by easy-read-online.co.uk
The booklet includes images licensed from Photosymbols & Shutterstock.