

## Is there any payment?

Payments will be based on your skills level. Please see enclosed leaflet. This may vary slightly depending on the time the child arrives and leaves and is based on the number of sessions worked.

We also provide any equipment you need (for example, bedding, stairgates etc.) and insurance cover.

If you have any other queries or would like to apply to become a Family Link carer please contact:

Tel: **01934 421 900**

email: **FamilyLinkScheme@n-somerset.gov.uk**

Or write to:

Family Link Scheme, North Somerset Council  
Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ

Council documents can be made available in large print, audio, easy read and other formats. Documents on our website can also be emailed to you as plain text files.

Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.

For more information contact: 01275 888 999 or  
FamilyLinkScheme@n-somerset.gov.uk

# Short Breaks for Disabled Children

## Can you help?

Family Link scheme for disabled children and young people



## **What are short breaks?**

Family Link/short break care gives children the opportunity to spend time away from their families and to increase independence and social skills. Short breaks can be for an overnight stay, regular weekend care, weekend day care or longer breaks during the school holidays.

## **Where does it take place?**

In the Family Link carer's home.

## **What are the disabilities?**

Most children have a learning disability, some may have a mild physical disability or both. The theme 'children first, disability second' underpins the service.

## **What is the age range?**

Children referred to us range from 0–18 years old, but the majority of children using the service are between 5–16.

## **Who can become a Family Link carer?**

Anyone who has experience or a genuine interest in caring for children. No special qualifications are required but patience and understanding are essential.

## **Is there any training available?**

Yes, as part of your assessment you will be required to complete a preparation course.

## **Is there any support after training?**

Yes. We will support you (i.e. keep in contact with you) by regular visits. Also you can contact us anytime you need help, advice or just a chat about how things are going.

## **What is the next step?**

If after reading this leaflet you would like to apply to become a Family Link carer, we will arrange to see you in your own home to discuss what you can offer in greater detail. We like to see everyone who may be involved in short breaks such as partners, and children, if you have any. The assessment process will take four to six months and will include police checks, health and personal references as well as a medical. Once the assessment is completed, North Somerset Foster Panel will make a decision about approving your application. We cannot place anyone with you until this is done.

## **Once you are registered**

The assessment will help us get a clear idea about what skills you have. We will then try to link you to a young person and family whose needs we feel you will be able to meet. We give you as much information about them as possible and discuss it with you before any link is made. We then arrange an informal meeting between you, the young person and their family. If you decide to go ahead after this, we will have a placement agreement meeting which sets out how often the child or young person will come to stay with you.

This arrangement will be reviewed regularly and you will have an allocated social worker who will meet with you on a regular basis.