

New into Care: what's available?

A guide for Foster Carers of West Sussex children and young people



When a child or young person comes into care, free resources, activities and learning support are available. Here are some of the things you can access or ask us about.

Books and reading

- **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** – a free book every month until the child's fifth birthday
- **Starting Reception** – a special 'starting school' book plus fun activities
- **Just For You** – a book bundle, gift and shared-reading tips each term for children aged three to end of primary school
- **Book token** – gifted at the end of Year 6 and Year 11 to mark these important transition points



Digital learning support

- **Britannica** – a safe, reliable online resource for homework, research and curiosity

Opportunities and Your Voice

- **Library membership** – support to connect children and young people with their local library
- **Reading challenges** – seasonal activities that encourage reading practice and celebrate progress
- **Your Voice** - young people can tell us about their reading habits, interests and what they would like to read
- **House project and children's homes** - practical books, book bags and rotating reading resources are provided through selected programmes and settings. For those working towards independent living as they prepare to leave care, young people receive a free book to support them in their next stage



Support for Foster Carers

- **Training webinars** - Virtual School webinars cover a range of school and education-related topics
- **Reading together** - simple shared-reading ideas are included in 'Just For You' book bundles
- **Not sure what applies?** – Please do ask us! We can help you work out what is available for the child or young person in your care

Visit our [website](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/virtualschool) to find out more about the West Sussex Virtual School, resources and support.

