

a Children have the right to feel Safe and Secure in their environment. Security within their surroundings contributes to both the child's physical and emotional Wellbeing by ensuring they are not harmed and do not suffer any ill-fate. The feeling of Security contributes to the child's emotional Wellbeing as they do not fear or worry about anything.

~~Children have the right to be free from~~ Children have the right to have a name and belong to a country or people.

This contributes to the child's sense of Identity and ultimately the child's Self actualisation. Children who are denied this right would lose a part of their self. Self and Sense of Identity is a major contributor to a child's emotional well-being.

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6 b) **Respite Carers-** Respite carers are paid<sup>or unpaid</sup>, temporary carers who take on the responsibilities of the parent/carer for a short period of time in order to provide them with a little time to themselves.

This service provides a relaxation period when both ~~parent~~ carer and cared for have a break from each other, this break allows both parties to have some time alone and be refreshed so that they are able to fulfill their responsibilities to the best of their abilities.

Parents may use respite care in order to ~~also~~ fulfill other roles, e.g. employee or partner, which may have been neglected due to the demand from their parenting role.

Respite care allows carers to relax away from dependants and return with a clear head.

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## Foster parenting - Social parenting

Foster parents take on the role of parent or guardian temporarily, they may care for a child from days to years, They do not gain full guardianship of the child as the real parents have not relinquished their parental right, they are simply unable to provide adequate care at that point in time.

There are a number of factors influencing parenting and caring relationships within this family situation. Some of the rights of a biological parent are not the rights of a foster parent, though the responsibilities remain the same. The level of attachment to a child may be different in a foster family. The decisions made on behalf of the child may not be solely that of the foster parent. Parents need to be able to cope with various ages, temperaments and problems

that children they care for may have.

Parents have the right to instill values and beliefs on their children, and discipline them as they see fit. ~~So~~ Foster parents, however, are required to keep an open mind and not pressure children to conform to their beliefs as they are often caring for children from different cultures and religions, they must also deal with discipline carefully as they are unsure of the child's history at times and children often have certain problems which hinder their ability to understand punishment eg: a child with Attention Deficit Disorder. Though the responsibilities of the foster parents are the same as those of biological ones, to ensure the child's needs are met, they are provided with food, water and shelter and are safe and secure in their environment.

Foster parents and children may not develop the same bonds as biological or

adopted families, this may be because of a number of reasons. The ~~short time period~~ Uncertainty of how long the child will be in the care of the foster family means that strong bonds are difficult to develop. The child may be reluctant to form bonds if he/she has been in the situation before, or if their home life has been disruptive.

Parents may have to consult fostering agencies (eg: DOCS) when making decisions on behalf of the child and the family, eg: if they wish to move house or move the child to a new school etc.

Foster parenting can become strenuous on the family. Parents need to be able to cope with and care for all ages of children, a variety of different problems eg: disability, mental illness, behavioural disorders etc. Foster parents must be able to adapt in order to provide adequate care for children.

Foster parenting can cause strain on relationships with both partners and children, biological and fostered, though it can also lead to strong bonds and lasting relationships.