



**Finding Homes for  
Hampshire Children**

# Specialist Respite Care

Could you support a family who has a  
child with disabilities?



Call 0300 555 1384 or  
visit our website [www.hants.gov.uk/specialistrespitcare](http://www.hants.gov.uk/specialistrespitcare)



**Hampshire**  
County Council

[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

Specialist Respite Carers provide regular and on going care for children with a range of needs, including physical disabilities, medical care, learning difficulties and autism. This includes providing support for children in a safe environment, treating them as part of the family, and looking out for their welfare.

The arrangement can be for a few hours in the morning or afternoon, after school or at set times over a number of weekends. Carers are supported by a Supervising Social Worker from the Fostering Team and work closely with the child's Social Worker.

To be a Specialist Respite Carer, you will need a range of experience and skills, from working in special schools or health services, or your own experience of caring for a family member.



## Meet Joshua

Joshua is eight years old and has received Specialist Respite Care for two years. Joshua has autism and severe learning disabilities. He can walk, but struggles with walking long distances. When Joshua becomes anxious he will drop to the floor or withdraw himself and try to hide.

Joshua loves football and he will often go to watch a match with his carers and their son, who he has developed a close bond. Joshua enjoys helping his carers bake cakes and playing in their garden, and is always included in any activities the family may be doing during the times he stays with them.

Joshua's parents know that he loves his time with his Specialist Respite Carers and they have a regular break from caring for him whilst being reassured that he is being cared for safely and most importantly, having fun!

The carers have also developed good relationships with Joshua's parents and they are sometimes able to provide care when a difficult situation arises for the family. Joshua's wider family is unable to give practical support to him, so this has really helped to build the family's resilience.

**Visit our website for more information**

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