

NACCOM's Hosting Good Practice Guide: Part 2

Appendix 6

Kids' Guide to Hosting

Hello!

As a family, you and your parents have talked about having someone to live with you in your home. Maybe the word 'hosting' is one you haven't heard much.

What does hosting mean?

When you are invited to your friend's house for tea, or a sleepover, your friend's parents are hosting you.

They will keep you safe.

They will be kind.

They will treat you like one of the family.

They will give you food to eat.

They will give you a bed to sleep in.

If you're not well or have a bad dream, they will look after you.

The hosting that you and your family give is more than that because the person who comes to you will live with you in your house. They will not be going home to their own family and may stay with you for quite a long time until they are able to look after themselves again or go home.

When this person comes to live with you and your family, you become their host family.

You won't know them yet and they might be from another country and speak a different language.

Their own family might live far, far away. They might have had some bad things happen to them, perhaps because of a war or something else. This has meant

that they have had to leave their home and family, and they might feel lonely or afraid. They might feel scared about coming to live in your home and worried about what might happen to them. They are coming to live with you because they don't have a home of their own at the moment.

They will have their own bedroom in your house.

They might share a bathroom with you and your family.

They might eat meals with you and your family or may want to eat by themselves sometimes.

They may find it hard to join in with your family at first.

How Will Hosting Make You Feel?

At first, it can feel strange to have someone else in your home and family, but after a while as you spend time together, help take care of them and learn new things, you get used to each other and it will feel right again.



Why Does This Person Need a Safe Place to Live?

There are lots of reasons why people who come to our country need our help and support. Perhaps they have run away from a war and need somewhere safe to stay for a while. Perhaps they were made to feel unsafe by their Government or other people in their own country, and they had no choice but to leave. Perhaps the UK Government has not properly understood their story and they are now left homeless with no money. A person who is forced to leave their own country to find safety in another is called a refugee or a person seeking asylum (which is another way of saying "safe place").

[The following section is specific to modern day slavery] Sadly, sometimes, they find a job but it isn't a real job at all and they have been tricked by bad people and forced to work for them. They might work in a car wash, a nail bar, a building site or be a servant in someone else's house. They work very hard but aren't paid any money at all. They don't have any friends or family to help. They

often don't speak our language well, and they are in a strange place with nowhere to live. They are often badly treated and hurt but aren't allowed to leave the job. They are scared of the people who keep them like this.

This person is called a slave. You may have learnt about the African slave trade at school and thought it was all history. It isn't. There are more slaves in the world now than there have ever been. Even in our country. It's against the law to make and keep people as slaves, and when the Police find out, they rescue the slaves and punish the slave keepers.

The slaves who are rescued are given a safe place to live for a few weeks so that they can start a new life. After a few weeks they don't have anywhere else to go. They don't have any money to pay rent. They still have no friends or family to help. Who can they trust?

How Can You and Your Family Help?

- Together with your family, you can help to make them feel safe in your home.
- Together with your family, you can welcome this person into your home.
- This person is invited to share your family.
- Together, you can help this person feel loved again.
- Together, you can help this person build their life again.



What Might This Person Be Like When They First Come?

This person may have been very badly treated as a slave or have been left on the streets homeless as a person seeking asylum. Often bullied and physically hurt.

They don't know your family and may be afraid that you will treat them in the same way.

Because they are so frightened, they might find it hard to go outside, or walk to the shops or the park.

- They may cry a lot.
- Sometimes they may be very quiet, or at other times very noisy.
- The slave work they were forced to do could have been all different hours of the day or night, so this person may find it hard to sleep at night like we do or get up in the mornings.
- This person might be frightened of all kind of things that don't frighten you at all.

How Can I Help Make a Difference?

You have a very important job to do in your family that will make a huge difference to this person.

There is no one else who can do it as well as you can. This very important job is to be yourself. You don't have to try to be perfect or scared to try and help. Just be your normal self.

Because you care, you will find yourself looking for ways to help this person feel at home with your family. This person may feel that there is no one who can love and care for them anymore, and that they are not worth loving. By doing the smallest things like showing them which is their own special chair at the table, making them a placemat, making them a drink, a birthday card or cake, you will show how much you care.

Sometimes this person will need time to sort stuff out with parents? and you can give them that time.

When this person feels more at home with you, they may want to cook something from their own country for you all to try. It's a way they can thank you for opening your home, and it also reminds them of good times with their own faraway family. You may find their food very different, or even not like it at all, but always try to eat it if you can. You can be polite and find some good things to say about it. By eating their food you are showing that they are loved.

If you are a family that enjoys baking and cooking together, this person will see the fun you have and that no one is forced. They might like to be asked to help prepare things together, to be part of the family.

This person might not believe in God or might not believe in God in the same way as you and your family. They might pray in a different way or celebrate different festivals. You can ask them questions about what they believe and how that works for them but listen carefully to what they say and don't try to argue. They may want to join in your festivals and celebrations, and they may have lots of questions. It might be the first time they have seen a family celebrate the way your family do.

Remember, if you get worried or don't understand why this person is being the way they are, you can talk it through with your parents.

Being part of a host family is a huge present to give to this person.

Soon this person will have a name, a face, and a place in your home and family. As you and your family learn to love and care for this person, they will give huge presents to you.

Not a new X-Box. Not a new trampoline. Not a trip to Disneyland. But presents that will make you happy in different ways.

- After a while, you may see them begin to relax. And you will be happy because you helped them feel safe.
- After a while, they may smile sometimes. And you will be happy because you helped them find things to smile about.
- After a while, they will learn to speak more of your language. And you will be happy because you helped them learn the right words to say.
- After a while, you may learn some of their language. And you will be happy because you have made them happy.
- After a while, they may want to join in some of the things your family do. And you will be happy because you helped them not to feel so lonely.
- After a while, they will leave your family and move on somewhere else. And you will be happy because you have helped someone become alive and stronger again.

Remember:

Be Yourself.

*It is strange for this person
and for you.*

*Talk to your parents if you
are worried.*