



Epworth Foster Care
presents

HOME AWAY FROM HOME



Written by Angie Lee, Cheong Jia Qi, and Shalom Fung

Illustrated by Janice Khaw

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CHAPTER 1.

I am very hungry and it has been a while since I last saw my friends in school.





I wish Mummy would
buy my favourite burger.



I wonder when Daddy
would come back.



21-6

*Child Protection Officers conduct social investigations and provide case management services for children and young persons who have been abused or neglected by their parents or caregivers.

But, the **Child Protection Officer*** said that I have to be taken away to a place where there is food for me to eat, clean clothes for me to wear, people who will play with me, and provide me with a safe place.

CHAPTER 2 •

At my foster home, I met Aunty and Uncle. They said that they will be taking care of me until it is safe for me to return to my parents. There were also two other children who were around my age.



Life here is different. Aunty and Uncle told me I will not go hungry because there will always be enough food for me.



They also showed me how to keep myself clean and tidy.







Although it looks really fun to play games together, I usually prefer to sit by the corner and watch them.



Every night at 9PM, I will be tucked
into bed with my foster siblings but
sometimes I stay up late, thinking about
Daddy and Mummy. I wonder, when will
I be able to go back home?





❧ CHAPTER 3 •

There are also days where I find myself hiding under the table.



“Stay there until they are gone, and don’t make a sound!”



This usually happens when I hear loud knocks. It reminds me of the group of men who pound violently at our door from time to time, asking for Daddy.

Even though I know that it is just Aunty and Uncle at the door, those loud sounds and scary memories make me frightened.



"There is no need to be afraid, we are here for you."

CHAPTER 4 •



* **Foster Care Officers** provide guidance and support to foster families and foster children through regular home visits and telephone contact.

Every few weeks, my Foster Care Officer* comes over to visit me. I would share with her how it makes me feel happy when ...





...I bake cupcakes
with Aunty and she
praises me for doing
it well.



I see the support that Aunty and
Uncle give to me by always being
there for me.





I know that there will always
be someone to listen to me,
guide me, and give me advice
whenever I need it.





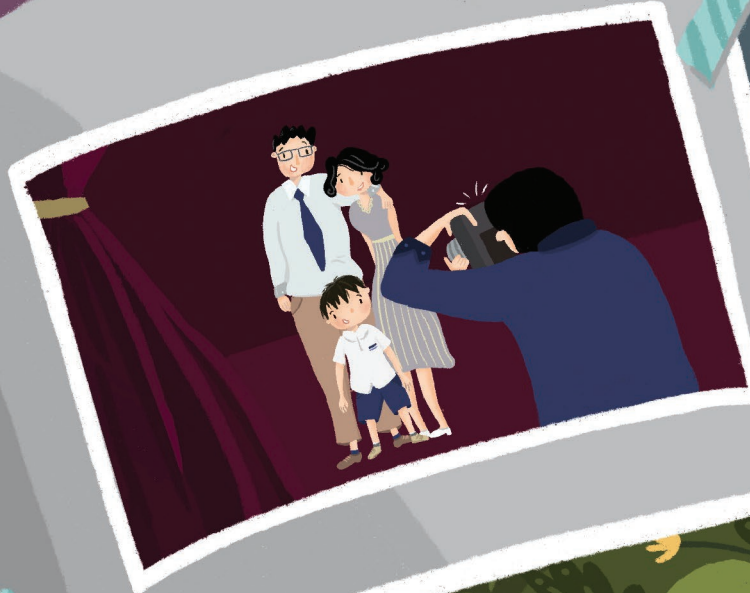
I play with my foster siblings
and they share their favourite
games with me.



CHAPTER 5 •

Yet, I know that the day will
come when Mummy and Daddy
are ready for me to return.

Then, I would have
to say “goodbye” to
everyone here.



But for now,
I will treasure
these precious
moments, of
*my home away
from home.*



A NOTE TO READERS

Children come into foster care when their home environment is not safe for them to stay and their basic needs are not well taken care of by their natural families. Their families may be having problems such as financial, physical or mental health issues; their parents might have passed away, neglected their children's needs, used harsh punishment or treated their children inappropriately.

For the children, having to leave their families to stay with people they do not know can be frightening. They are uncertain of what will happen to them as they face changes in their lives. While they miss their families, they may also struggle with memories and experiences from their past. All these may cause them to feel confused, insecure, angry and sad. Foster parents can help by providing a secure, stable and loving home environment for the children. They can do so through:

- ✓ *Spending time to get to know the children*
- ✓ *Showing understanding and encouragement through their words and actions*
- ✓ *Helping them to process their thoughts and emotions when they are upset or in distress*
- ✓ *Involving them in activities that will help them feel they are part of their family*
- ✓ *Providing structure, routines and engaging activities*
- ✓ *Paying attention and helping them in their daily needs*


Foster homes are temporary homes where foster parents provide quality care and build nurturing relationships with the children. While the children are with their foster families, the children's natural parents and family members work on their issues with the help of their Child Protection Officer. Foster parents also work closely with the Foster Care Officer and other professionals in caring for these children, helping them to reach their potential and supporting the reintegration plans with their natural families.

Quak Li Koan

Epworth Foster Care Manager



HOME AWAY FROM HOME



What comes to your mind when you
think about the word "HOME"?

Do you know that some children come from
homes that are unsafe, and do not know
what a loving and supportive family looks
like? We welcome you to *put yourself in
the shoes of a child's journey through
foster care*, where his definition of home is
redefined, and his belief in family is restored.



Epworth Foster Care

Blk 153 Bukit Batok Street 11, #04-284, Singapore 650153

Tel: 6715 3725 / 9119 8711 Email: fostercare@epworth.sg