



Caring for Muslim Children

Facilitating Prayer
(Salah)

With you every step of the way

Fosterline
0800 040 7675
your fostering advice service

www.fosterline.info



Muslims are obliged to observe five daily prayers once they have reached puberty (although girls are not required to pray during menstruation).

The act of Salah comprises of standing, bowing, prostrating sitting and reciting the Qur'an and praising God whilst facing the direction of the Ka'bah in Mecca, This direction is called the Qiblah.

Each prayer must be performed in its correct time, and the time for prayer is usually measured by the position of the sun. In the UK, prayer times vary enormously between Winter and Summer.

For each prayer there is usually a 1.5 – 3 hour time frame in which to complete each prayer, although it is encouraged to pray as early within the time frame as possible.

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The five daily prayers are:

1. Fajr
2. Zuhur
3. Asr
4. Maghrib
5. Isha

Prayer can be performed anywhere as long as the area is free of impurities and distractions (e.g. statues and pictures).

Prayers can be offered individually, alone, or in congregation.

The only exception to this is the Friday prayer, Jumu'ah, which must be performed in congregation in a mosque. (Jumu'ah is not an additional prayer as it replaces 'Zuhur' on the Friday).

A regular prayer meeting of the Muslim community is every Friday at noon. This is a time when all Muslims gather together, and is critical in developing a community spirit.

Jumu'ah typically takes place between 12.30pm and 14.00pm depending on the time of year. Foster carers should try and facilitate attendance for Muslim boys especially once they have reach puberty. Jumu'ah is not mandatory for girls, however some may want to attend and this should be encouraged.

To facilitate prayer as a foster carer it would be helpful to provide:

- A water container for ablution
- A prayer mat: there is no religious significance for this, it is used to ensure that the place of prayer is clean.
- Provide a space which is clean and free from photographs, statues and dogs.
- Purchasing or downloading a prayer timetable calendar.
- A compass, to ensure the child is performing the prayer in the correct direction, facing the Ka'bah in Mecca, Saudi Arabia (this is called the qiblah). Please note that in the United Kingdom the direction is South East.



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