

Opening Your Home and Your Heart to Children in Need

The best place for children is with their families. However, sometimes there are unfortunate circumstances that require children to be moved into a foster home. While children are in a foster home, birth parent(s) can focus on resolving difficult, personal issues. Caseworkers and foster parents will work with the children's biological family to help parents make necessary changes.

Children in need of foster homes range in age from infants through teens and come from all racial and ethnic groups. Some children have special physical or educational needs, and many require special support to catch up both academically and socially with their peers.

By welcoming a child into your home and showing them love and guidance, you are giving them a gift that will benefit the child for the rest of his/her life. And while most children in foster care are returned to their parents or another family member, your time with them will allow them to live in your heart forever.

For more information on how you can help a child in need please call:

(302) 633-2657

Delaware Children's
Department
Division of Family Services
1825 Faulkland Road
Wilmington, DE 19805

Scan the QR Code



You can also visit us online!
de.gov/fostercare



FOSTER PARENTS

Provide Hope for the Future



DSCYF
Department of Services for
Children, Youth & Their Families

Learn how YOU can provide
hope for the next generation!

de.gov/fostercare

How Can I Help?

FOSTER CARE 101

Foster Care is temporary care in your home for a child who has been removed from his/her home due to abuse, neglect, or dependency. The goal for most children in foster care is to return to their parent(s) when the circumstances that led to the foster placement have been resolved. However, sometimes children are not able to return home and need a permanent family. This is accomplished through adoption. Oftentimes, foster parents adopt the children they care for. The Division of Family Services offers special training and support to foster parents who decide to adopt.

RESPITE CARE

Respite Care is very short-term care of a child who already has a full-time foster placement. You would help foster parents by caring for a child in your home for a few hours up to a few days.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

There are many activities available, such as tutoring, organizing donation drives, sponsoring events, etc. Foster Families need a variety of volunteer supports.

Call today for more information
(302) 633-2657

Am I Able To Help?



To be a foster parent in Delaware:

- You must be at least 21 years of age.
- You must be economically stable.
- You can be single, married, divorced, or widowed.
- You can rent or own your home.
- You can be of any race or religion.
- You will need to participate in 30 hours of pre-service training.
- You will need to have a criminal background check and be fingerprinted.
- You will need to have a home, health, and safety study.
- You will need to provide references.

Frequently Asked Questions

I have children of my own. Can I still be a foster parent?

Yes! As a foster parent, you can have up to five children living in your home, including your own.

Can we foster a sibling group?

Yes! Family connections are important. We attempt to keep siblings together.

I'm not sure if I want to foster. What should I do?

Being uncertain is okay. Most folks need more information before they make a commitment. Orientation sessions are provided to help answer questions you might have.

Can I choose the age range and gender of the child I want to care for?

Yes. We try to match a child to a family based on strengths and needs.

What group of children is in most need of foster parents?

Teenagers and children with special needs are the hardest groups to place and therefore, the most in need of foster parents.

Isn't it hard to give up a child once you become attached?

Loving the child and then sending him/her back to a healthier family is one of the hardest and most important aspects of fostering. By helping the child stay connected to his/her family, foster parents often feel they have contributed to the strengthening of a family. The love you provided the child will live in his/her heart forever.

