



What is foster care?

It is temporary care for children who are unable to live with their birth families.

Who can become a foster parent?

You can apply to become a foster parent if you...

- ♥ are at least 21 years old
- ♥ are married, single, or living with a partner
- ♥ have sufficient income to meet your own family's needs
- ♥ are in good health
- ♥ can make room in your home and heart for children who need temporary care

Who is a foster parent?

A foster parent is someone who can provide temporary care and love for children who are unable to live with their birth families. A foster parent should be someone who...

- ♥ wants to make a difference in a child's life
- ♥ is flexible and capable of handling stressful situations
- ♥ can be a working or stay-at-home parent
- ♥ can work as a member of a team with families, social workers and other professionals
- ♥ can help prepare a child for return to their birth family or to be adopted
- ♥ may become an adoptive parent



Who are the children in care?



- ♥ Children in foster care represent all ethnic groups and may be infants through teenagers.
- ♥ Some children may have handicapping conditions, behavioral challenges, and need special care.
- ♥ When brothers and sisters come into care, we want to place them together. Teenage mothers also need homes for themselves and their children.
- ♥ Children in foster care, like all children, need love, affection, and guidance.

How can I become a foster parent?

- ♥ Attend an orientation session
- ♥ Complete an application
- ♥ Provide personal references and current medical reports
- ♥ Attend our training classes
- ♥ Participate in a home study

How will we help you?

- ♥ Provide ongoing training
- ♥ Provide 24-hour emergency services
- ♥ Arrange for special services for the child in care
- ♥ Provide financial and medical support to meet the needs of the child

What should I do now?

Call us for more information:
(631) 853-KIDS
(853-5437)

Suffolk County Department of Social Services
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The Best Things
in Life
Are Shared



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Foster Parent

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For the Children of Suffolk County