

Interested in becoming a foster parent?

Here's what's next.



By fostering with a Foster Plus agency, you can help guide a young person in your community toward a healthier, happier future.

Whether you're interested in becoming a full-time foster parent or a part-time Relief Parent, your journey will include a few steps to prepare you. Your local agency will work with you to provide specialized training and extra support, and to make sure fostering is a good fit for you and your family.

Your journey toward fostering

No matter which Foster Plus agency you foster with, your journey will include these steps. The process typically takes between six weeks and four months.

1. Learning & Exploration

Learn what's involved in fostering and get to know the team at your local agency. You'll get a better understanding of whether fostering is a good fit for you and your family.

2. Getting Started

Attend an info session, and submit your application to become a foster parent or Relief Parent. The application asks for basic details such as information about the people living in your home and your experience as a caretaker.

3. Training & Certification

Receive about 30 hours of specialized training—a mix of in-person and online training. You'll also provide references and documents (such as proof of insurance) and complete a background check, a written questionnaire and in-person interviews. Your local agency will review everything and, if it all checks out, certify you for fostering.

4. Orientation

Meet your support team and learn more about the kids your agency serves. In the meantime, the team at your local agency will begin looking for a child who's a good fit for your home.

5. Foster Parenting

Get paired with a foster kid and start making a difference in their life. If you become a full-time foster parent, you can expect the child to stay in your home for six months to two years. If you're a Relief Parent, each kid will stay with you for a day or two at a time (or sometimes up to two weeks if you are open to a longer stay). Your Foster Plus team will be available 24/7 to support you on your journey.

To foster with a Foster Plus agency, you must meet the following basic requirements*:

- + At least 21 years old
- + Can pass a background check
- + Can demonstrate financial independence (families cannot be dependent upon the foster care stipend)
- + Complete orientation and pre-certification training, and maintain certification through continued education and training
- + Reliable transportation
- + Separate bedroom with a door and a window for the foster kid placed in your home

*Local agencies may have additional requirements beyond those listed here.