

## What You Need to Know About Foster Parenting

As the saying goes... Generally, the best foster parents are people like you, with a lot of common sense and a lot of love in their hearts.

Foster parents are resilient people, generally with a lot of courage to bring up children and welcome them to their lives with an open heart. They realize that becoming a foster parent is an exceptional duty that involves plenty of patience.

Foster parenting is indeed a big responsibility, however, it is not complicated. An important part of succeeding as a foster parent revolves around accepting the child from the core of your heart and understanding his or her complicated emotions, especially if the child has lost its biological parents and is dealing with the overwhelming emotions from that loss. You need to be patient and teach the child slowly about family values, expectations, rituals, etc. You really have to cooperate with the child to integrate the child to a normal living environment once again. Let us explore the three different areas of foster parenting.

### Foster Adopt

To adopt a child, you must meet certain criteria.

To be a foster parent you can be either married or single but must be an adult of at least 21 years of age and you are required to be financially stable. When you opt for adoption, you need to fill out an application. If you are not sure about the application procedure, you can ask for help from the staff of the organization where you would adopt the child.

Feel free to discuss and share your lifestyle and the background you belong to.

If you are married, you must present your marriage certificate and if divorced, again, you have to show the document granting the divorce.

Allow the staff to visit your home and investigate your background.

Prior to adoption, you must attend the free training classes that would help you to deal with the foster child in the best way.

### Respite Foster Care

Respite for foster parenting began as individual service agencies to sustain the exceptional care given by foster parents. In a number of programs, respite is a normal part of the family support package presented to foster families caring for children with special needs. Other agencies have presented respite to foster parents as an enticement to care for children who have medical problems or as a motivation to consider urgent situation placements. Even though foster placements are usually provisional, many children in foster care are adopted by their foster parents. When this happens, respite care support that was available during foster placement should be sustained.

Respite is a very essential service in foster parenting. With this service, parents are able to take a break so burnout is averted. Conversely, respite will do the children good as well. If they spend a weekend away from the home and spend time with other foster children they can relate to, they will gain from the experience. It is necessary to plan a respite weekend properly, otherwise it might end up being a stressful experience.

### Therapeutic Foster Care

Therapeutic foster care services are designed to provide a flawless system of behavioral healthcare to the children. These services give children who show signs of emotional and behavioral problems with steady care in a comfortable and warm environment.

The goal of therapeutic foster care is to offer each needy child the opportunity to get continual, stable treatment, healthy living conditions and successful education to create an avenue to a successful life.

Foster parenting isn't for everyone but is certainly worth exploring.

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### About the Author

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