



GETTING STARTED

Your Foster Care Journey

What is foster care?

- Temporary placement for children who cannot stay at home due to abuse or neglect
- Foster parent provide a safe & nurturing temporary home
- Biological parents get support services to help their child come home safely





Who are the children in foster care?

Ages birth -
21 years

Victims of
Abuse or Neglect

Trauma Survivors

Common Foster Parent Myths

Myth

"I have to own my home to become a foster parent."



Fact

You do not have to own your home. In fact, many foster parents rent their residence.



Common Foster Parent Myths

Myth

"I have to be married to be a foster parent."



Fact

You do not have to be married to, or in a relationship, to be a foster parent.



Common Foster Parent Myths

Myth

"I have to already have children to become a foster parent."



Fact

You do not have to have children to be a foster parent.



What is required to become a foster parent?

- ✓ Be at least 21 years of age
- ✓ Complete a criminal background check
- ✓ Be in good health both mentally and physically
- ✓ Have a stable income
- ✓ Be willing to complete a free training and assessment process
- ✓ Be part of a professional team willing to voice perspectives and concerns
- ✓ Be willing to partner with the child's family



How do I get started?

If you meet the qualifications for becoming a foster parent, contact the Children's Division to set up a meeting with a team member who will go over:

- Rewards and challenges of being a foster parent
- Services available to foster parents and children



800-554-2222



Moheartgallery@raisethefuture.org



What is the MO C.A.R.E. Program?

MO - Missouri
C - Caregiver
A - and
R - Resource
E - Education



MO CARE is the required training and content adapted from the National Training and Development Curriculum (NTDC) for foster and adoptive parents. This training includes 10 sessions, 3 hours each, that focus on trauma, the child welfare system, child development, attachment, communication, and parenting.

These training sessions also offer an opportunity for prospective families to:

- Ask questions
- Build relationships with other parents and agency staff
- Determine if foster or adoptive parenting is the right choice

Do I have to take in every child?

The assessment and licensing process is ongoing, and enables agencies to place children based on:

- Your specific parenting skills
- The capacity of your home
- The information you provide
- The child's unique needs

Even if your home is selected for a foster child, you always have the option to decline the placement.



What type of support is available?

You will be assigned a Children's Division team member who will support and guide you in:

- Finding and completing the required training
- Learning more about support and respite care



What type of support is available?

Foster parents also receive:

- A monthly maintenance payment to help cover the costs of care
- Healthcare coverage through Missouri Medicaid for the child's medical, psychological, and dental needs
- Help paying for child care services if they work or go to school full time



Questions?

 fostercare@dss.mo.gov

 dss.mo.gov/cd/foster-care



Are there other ways I can help?



Provide **Respite Care**

Respite Care provides temporary care for children in foster care.



Donate

Donate

- money
- gift cards

For a more comprehensive list of donation items, visit:
tinyurl.com/DSS-MO-FosterSupport



Host a
backpack or
luggage drive



Become a **Volunteer**

Donate your professional services to youth in foster care



Tutor or Mentor

Tutor or mentor youth in foster care