

MY FOSTER PARENT CHECKLIST

- Express an interest
- Call **800-554-2222** or email **MoHeartGallery@raisethefuture.org** to get started
- Submit an application for a foster care license
- Complete required background screenings
- Get approval
- Enroll in my Foster Parent training program
- Complete the following:
 - Intro to Foster Care
 - Intro to Respite Care
 - Informed Consent
 - Consent to Treat
- Complete in-home assessments
- Make a difference in the life of a foster child



The outcome on how we, as foster parents, touch a child's life, makes it all worth it.

- Missouri Foster Parent



Missouri Department of Social Services
Children's Division
800-554-2222

MoHeartGallery@raisethefuture.org
dss.mo.gov/cd/foster-care/



Your guide to
**BECOMING A
FOSTER PARENT**



WHO CAN BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?

Many people believe you have to have children, be married, or own a home to become a foster parent. This is not true. To become a foster parent, you must:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Complete a child abuse/neglect and criminal background screening
- Be in good health, both physically and mentally
- Have a stable income
- Complete the required free trainings and assessments
- Be a part of a professional team willing to voice perspectives and concerns
- Partner with the child's biological family



GETTING LICENSED

Once you successfully complete your training and in-home assessments, you will become a licensed foster parent in Missouri. Your name will then be placed into a confidential database.



Remember, even if you are a licensed foster parent, you can choose not to take a child into your home if the time is not right for you.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

There are many resources available to foster parents, including:

- Support groups to help connect you with local foster parents
- Child safety resources
- Virtual and in-person training opportunities
- Reimbursement options for some clothing, transportation mileage, and child care

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

If you are unable to become a foster parent, there are many ways you can still support foster families in Missouri, such as:

- Provide **respite care**
- Make a monetary donation
- Become a **volunteer**
- Tutor or mentor a youth
- **Donate** items to help youth in foster care and/or foster families
- Hold a backpack or luggage drive

To learn more or find other ideas, visit tinyurl.com/DSS-MO-FosterSupport.