

Steps to Becoming a Professional Foster Caregiver

1. Pre-Service Training
2. Application Submission
3. The Home Study
4. Licensure
5. Placement Expectations

What are the requirements?

A foster caregiver must be at least 21 years of age and have sufficient income to meet their own basic needs and be in good physical, emotional and mental health. You can be single or part of a couple who have had a stable relationship for at least 1 year. There are no educational or religious requirements and homeownership is not necessary.

What do foster caregivers do?

Our foster caregivers provide basic daily care and supervision in a loving, nurturing and stable environment. They act in the place of the caregiver, supporting the child at school, ensuring all medical, dental, social, recreational, cultural, religious and physical needs are met. Caregivers are expected to provide transportation and accompany children to medical and therapy appointments and sometimes arrange these appointments. Foster caregivers develop non-physical discipline techniques that are fair and age appropriate. They act as a child advocate and are part of the agency team and will participate in all child focused meetings at the agency or in the community. Foster caregivers support children in the visitation plan and support the family in the reunification efforts or an alternate plan if the child cannot return home. Foster caregivers take training that increases their knowledge and skill level in caregiving this very special population. Foster caregivers respect the culture, race and background as well as that of their families.

For more information please click here for our Foster/Adoption Handbook:

http://cfs.cuyahogacounty.us/pdf_cfs/en-US/FosterAdoptionHandbook.pdf