



**Once you decide . . .**

Once you decide the foster parenting you want to provide, a worker from your local DHHS office will be assigned to your family. Assistance will be provided to become a licensed foster home and complete a home study with your family.

**Licensing** consists of checking your home for health and safety factors, obtaining medical reports about you and your spouse, at least three personal references, a criminal records check, a check of the Central Registry for Child and Adult Abuse/Neglect, and a check with the Nebraska Sex Offenders Registry and submission of fingerprints.

The next step of a **Home Study** involves the family in completing a self-study. We will also visit with you and your family to understand your unique skills, abilities and desires. This helps us better serve you and the children in our care. With your worker, you will discuss and explore such topics as background and personality, childhood experiences, financial stability, marital and family relationships, parental experiences and expectations.

Please consider becoming a foster or adoptive parent and make a real difference in a young Nebraskan's life.

*Other ways to help*

If you are currently unable to provide any of the foster parent options, you can still help. Consider donating to a foster family wish list. Items such as bunk beds, cribs, mattresses, etc. are appreciated.

*Check us out on the Internet*

Find more information about foster and adoptive care on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website at:

<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/>

and click on "Children & Families." Then, click "Child Welfare" in the left-hand column, and "Adoption" in the right-hand column.

*How can I find out more?*

**1-800-7PARENT**

**1-800-772-7368**



Department of Health & Human Services

**DHHS**

N E B R A S K A



**Can you open your heart and your home to children who need them?**

**If so . . .**  
*become a foster or adoptive parent now!*



*A foster family provides care in a safe, nurturing home environment temporarily until a permanent living situation can be established.*

## *Caring adults needed to protect children in our community!*

**S**ome children in our community cannot live safely at home. They need a secure home and loving adults to help protect them from trauma and stress in their life. Right now, we're seeking foster parents for children of all ages, ethnicity and cultural backgrounds, especially teenagers, multiple siblings, children with physical challenges and children experiencing emotional or behavioral issues.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and a family team work with children and families to find solutions that will safely reunite biological families. In the meantime, foster parents become an important part of this team while working with the child, birth family and the family's case manager. Foster parents provide a loving, caring bridge back home, and you are needed now.

### **Emergency foster care**

Families (or individuals) provide emergency care for children in crisis, and can expect to provide care for a short period of time.

### **Traditional foster care**

If children's safety cannot be assured in their family's home, they may be placed with a foster family for a short period of time.

A foster family provides care in a safe, nurturing home environment temporarily until a permanent living situation can be established. The primary goal of DHHS is reuniting children with their family. How long children live with a foster family depends on their needs.

### **Foster/adoptive care**

If children in foster care cannot be safely reunified with their biological family, and with approval of the court, DHHS staff look for adults who can provide a permanent, safe and healthy home.

Children must live in a foster or adoptive home for at least six months before an adoption is finalized.

### **Emergency, foster or foster/ adoption training**

If you choose one of these options of care, your first step will be working with DHHS staff to assist in the completion of your background check and a home study. You will attend DHHS' Pre-Service Training for Foster and Adoptive Parents. This training helps you decide whether foster care is a 'fit' for you, your family and your current situation. It also prepares you to work with the child welfare system, your role as a member of the child's team, the reimbursement process, local community supports, and understanding the needs of the children coming into care, among other topics.

These free classes are offered several times a year and anyone is welcome to attend.

If you are married, both spouses must attend the training.

