

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE OFFERED TO FOSTER PARENTS?

FOSTER PARENT MENTORS are available to help our foster parents navigate the ins and outs of foster parenting in Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties. All mentors are current HFC foster parents.

SUPPORT GROUPS meet monthly to offer support for foster parents.

ASSISTANCE with child care is available.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING is provided to help foster parents understand and take care of children and teens with challenging behaviors as well as special needs.

FUN LOCAL EVENTS and activities, including Foster Parent Appreciation Day, are held throughout the year!



FOSTER PARENT INFO SESSION

Call (863) 519-8900 x 289
to SIGN-UP!



SHARE THEIR JOURNEY - BECOME A
FOSTER PARENT
WITH HEARTLAND FOR CHILDREN





WHAT IS A FOSTER HOME?

A foster home is a temporary home for children who have been abused, neglected, abandoned or have special needs. Foster parents provide a temporary loving, safe, and secure home-like setting for children while their parents are working toward reunification.

WHAT "TYPES" OF CHILDREN COME INTO THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM?

All ages, races and genders, from newborns to teenagers can be placed into foster care.

HOW LONG WILL THE CHILD(REN) LIVE WITH A FOSTER FAMILY?

A child or sibling group will live with a foster family anywhere from a day to a year or longer, while their parents work with resources in the community to help them resolve the issues that caused the children to be removed. Foster care is always intended to be temporary, but can be longer, as each case is unique.

4 STEPS TO BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT:

1. **COMPLETE** a basic phone interview and complete an information session.
2. **PARTICIPATE** in Passport to Parenting classes which will prepare you to be a foster parent
3. **COMPLETE** a foster home-study, conducted by a foster home licensing specialist. Your licensing specialist will visit your home at least twice during the foster parent training period.
4. **GET LICENSED!** Our goal is to license your home within 30 days of completion of your foster parent training.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?

MARITAL STATUS: Married and unmarried couples living together, single adults, and legally divorced and widowed adults are eligible to apply. *If married or unmarried and living together, both must attend training to become certified foster parents.*

AGE: All applicants must be at least 21 years of age.

INCOME: There is no minimum income requirement, but applicants should demonstrate financial stability and be able to support themselves and their families.

Foster families need to have sufficient income to absorb 4-6 weeks of costs associated with a child being placed in your care, as well as unexpected costs that may arise for the child, until the initial foster care board payment has been received.

LANGUAGE: At least one caregiver in the home should be able to read, write and speak English.