

## Foster Care

*Together we can make an impact.*

Read what other Foster Parents have to say about the satisfaction of making a difference in a child's life...

**JEFF AND NICOLE P.**

"We get so much joy in watching the transformation of these children. It's amazing what love and proper care can do!"

**THERESA B.**

"Knowing that children are protected, loved and have the basic needs met during a time of transition gives me the ultimate satisfaction in being a foster parent."



**Make an Immediate Impact on a Child's Life...Become a Foster Parent.**



**ARKANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN  
SERVICES**

**AM I ABLE TO HELP?**

**TO BE A FOSTER PARENT IN ARKANSAS YOU MUST MEET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS:**

- You must be at least 21 years of age.
- You must be economically stable.
- You can be single, married, divorced, or widowed.
- You can rent or own your home.
- Housing space must be adequate to promote health and safety.
- You will need to have a criminal background check and be fingerprinted.
- You will need to meet all Minimum Licensing Standards and DCFS Policy Requirements.

[www.FosterArkansas.org](http://www.FosterArkansas.org)



**FOSTER**

**C A R E**

*Open Your Home  
and Your Heart to  
Children in Need.*

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**ARKANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Today, as you wonder how you can make a difference in the life of a child in Arkansas, know that children who are abused and neglected need you...

4,000 CHILDREN ARE IN FOSTER CARE EACH DAY IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS. THEY NEED UNCONDITIONAL CARE, SUPPORT,

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## HOW CAN I HELP?

Care, Commit, Connect through Foster Care. Foster Care is the temporary care in your home for a child who has been removed from his/her home due to abuse, neglect, or dependency. The goal for most foster children is to return to their parent(s) when the circumstances that led to the foster placement have been resolved. The Division of Children and Family Services offers special training and support for all foster homes.

Respite Care is a very short-term care of a child who already has a full-time foster placement. You would help foster parents by caring for a child in your home for a few hours to a few days.

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

There are many activities available such as: mentoring, tutoring, and sponsoring event drives. Foster Families need a variety of volunteer support.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### I have children of my own. Can I still be a foster parent?

YES! As a foster parent, you can have foster children living in your home as well as your own children.

### Can we foster a sibling group?

YES! Family connections are important. We attempt to keep siblings together when at all possible.

### I'm not sure if I want to become a foster parent?

That's okay. Most folks need more information before they make a commitment. Orientation sessions are provided in every county to help answer questions you might have.

### Can I choose the age range and gender of the child I want to care for?

YES! We try to match a child to a family based on strength and needs.

### Isn't it hard to give up a child once you become attached?

Loving a child and then sending him/her back to a healthier family is one of the hardest but most important aspects of fostering. By helping the child stay connected to his/her family, foster parents often feel they have contributed to the strengthening of a family. The love you provided the child will live in his/her heart forever. The training that you receive to become a foster parent will provide strategies to help you prepare to return a child to his or her family.

For more information on how you can help a child in need:

Call 501.682.8549

You can also get started online!

