

Fostering looks like... asking the right questions.

Foster Care FAQs



Omni Visions is always here to help.

What exactly is foster care?

Foster care is the temporary placement of children outside of their homes because of an unstable or unsafe home environment.

What's the difference between therapeutic foster care and traditional foster care?

Therapeutic Foster Care means caring for children with trauma and mental health needs who utilize wrap around services such as counseling and medication management. They often simply need additional support compared to traditional foster care.

Why do children come into foster care?

It's important to remember that children are placed into foster care through no fault of their own – typically due to parenting challenges, abuse, neglect or other family issues. The goal of most foster placements is to resolve these problems and return the child home.

Can I adopt through foster care?

Yes, but the primary goal of every placement is reunification with biological family. It's important that foster families go into the experience with this in mind and work toward that goal alongside the foster care agency. When reunification is no longer possible or advisable in a judge's point of view, adoption can be considered as a path to permanency.

What are the most common ages of the children I will be caring for?

Omni Visions serves children from birth to 21 years old. Typically, most of the children placed through our agency are in the pre-teen to teenage range.

How long do foster placements last?

It is difficult to predict how long a foster placement will last, because many ongoing factors impact the outcome. Some children may only be with a foster family for a few days while the agency locates a family member or close friend to care for them. Other children may stay for a few years, or even eventually be adopted by their foster family. Factors that affect the length of a placement include: the biological parent's progress in earning custody back, the availability of family members, and more. A foster family should be willing to take it one day at a time.

What are the requirements to become a foster family?

Foster parents must go through training classes and a home study. They also complete background checks for all adults in the home, provide references and complete medical forms.

Do I have to be married to foster?

No – we welcome foster parents who are single!

Will I receive financial assistance?

Yes. Foster parents receive a monthly stipend that is based on the child's age and complexity of needs.

How do I get started?

To foster with Omni Visions, complete a request for information form or call the local office, and we can help you decide whether therapeutic foster care is right for your family. Once your preliminary paperwork and application is approved, you'll start your training classes.

How long does the certification process take?

Generally, it depends on how efficiently you complete and submit the requirements. On average, it takes approximately four months to complete the process.

How do I manage the emotions of children coming and going?

Foster care often comes with mixed emotions. It is totally okay – and expected – to feel sad when a child leaves your home, no matter how long they were with you. We encourage our foster families to take time to grieve and care for themselves in the process. But that sadness means you gave a child a safe, loving home in the midst of a very difficult time in their life. Stepping outside your comfort zone like this is difficult, but worth it. Taking it one day at a time is key to navigating this unique role.

Will I have to interact with biological parents?

In most cases, yes. It's important to maintain the bond between children and their biological family whenever it is safe and possible to do so, which often includes regular visits. We encourage foster parents to keep an open mind, cultivating empathy and respect for biological families as you navigate these relationships, for the sake of the children in your home.

Is it okay if I already have children?

Yes! However, we do recommend talking to them honestly about the temporary nature of foster placements and the fact that the children placed in your home will have experienced hard things. It's not unusual for children to be a bit jealous at first – just as they might be with a new baby. But with Omni Visions' support and by answering their questions honestly and forthrightly, these relationships often grow into new friendships.

**We would love to walk alongside you on your path to becoming a foster family.
Call us at (919)-988-6465 anytime for more information or to get started!**