

FOSTER CARE MYTHS vs FACTS

MYTH:

FACT:

I have to be married to be a foster parent.

Foundations has many successful single foster parents.

I need to be a stay at home parent to foster.

We do not require a stay-at-home parent. We ask that children under the age of 3 not be in childcare for more than 32 hours/week due to possible attachment needs.

My children are grown. I'm too old to be a foster parent a foster parent.

There is no age requirement (other than you must be at least 21). Many "empty nesters" find foster parenting to be a rewarding experience.

I don't have children. Foster parents need parenting experience.

Many foster parents do not have children of their own. They are, however, responsible people who demonstrate the ability to parent or a desire to learn parenting skills.

Children are in care because they are bad kids.

Children are in care for a number of reasons. Often poor choices their parents have made led to unsafe living conditions.

Foster children are too difficult to parent.

Children in care have behavioral issues typical of children their age. For those with more challenging behaviors, Foundations offers resources to help families, including counseling, behavior coaches, mentors and support groups.

Foster children have been abused so much they are beyond repair. I really wouldn't be making a difference.

Many of the children have endured trauma in their lives. Because of this, they need you the most! You can provide a loving, stable, nurturing home for them to heal, learn and grow.

I have to provide medical insurance for a foster child in my home.

Foster parents do not pay any of a foster child's medical expenses, other than over-the-counter medicines and supplies. Children in foster care is covered by the governing jurisdiction for their medical, dental, and mental health care needs.

Once I take in a foster child, I am on my own without any help.

Children need stability, and we foster parents all types of support. You will complete our training program before any placement. We hold monthly meetings for our foster parents so you have the support of other foster parents as well. Respite care is also available for those times you need a break.

I'll get too attached and unable to reunify the child with his/her birth parents.

You will get attached. However, Foundations offers counseling, mentors and support groups to help you and your family move through the transition process.

Once a foster child is in my care, there is no relationship with the biological family.

Each situation is different, though many children do have visitations with biological families. The visits support their return home. In some cases, parental rights have been terminated, and visits are not held.