



Have a Heart...

Give a Child a New Start

Foster/Adoptive Parent Qualifications

WANTED: Nurturing Parents for Great Kids

If a child in your family were going to live with someone else for an extended period, you would want every assurance that the caretaker was responsible, capable, nurturing, law-abiding, and healthy. CFSA has a responsibility to ensure that people caring for our children provide a welcoming, safe, and stable environment.

Foster parents must obtain and maintain a license from CFSA. Foster and adoptive parents can be of any race, creed, or national origin. They can be married or single, with or without birth children at home. To pursue becoming a foster or adoptive parent through CFSA, you must:

- **Be at least 21 years old.**
- **Live in the District to be a foster parent. Adoptive parents can live anywhere.**
- **Be able to support your household financially.**
- **Not have a history of child abuse/neglect or criminal activity. Every member of your household over age 18 must pass FBI, police, and Child Protection Registry checks.**
- **Be in good physical and mental health and free of communicable diseases.**
- **Have enough space in your house or apartment for children to sleep separately from adults and from opposite-sex children over age 5.**
- **Provide character references.**
- **Be interested in learning or refreshing your parenting skills.**
- **Have the time and ability to provide good care, guidance, and support to children or teens.**

The most successful foster and adoptive parents enjoy children, like to parent, value family relationships, and have a strong personal support system. Many are motivated to make a positive difference in a young person's life or to contribute to the community. ■

