

Commonly Asked Questions About Foster Parenting

How long are the children in foster care?

Foster care is designed to be “temporary,” as the goal is for the children to return to their birth parents once the home environment is deemed safe by the courts. The state’s “goal” is to have permanency for the child(ren) within a year. However, some birth parents complete their case plans (which spells out the things that must be done in order for the child(ren) to return home) quickly, and some do so slowly. Accordingly, the length of time that the child is placed in foster care varies. Additionally, the Department of Children and Families is required to search for suitable relatives with whom the child can be placed with until the child can return to their birth parents. Therefore, sometimes children are placed in a foster home initially and then moved to a relative’s home within a few days/weeks/months.

Where would the child go to school?

The state currently tries to place children within the same school zone that they are currently in, so that they don’t have to change schools.

Is there any assistance with childcare?

Yes, the state provides assistance with childcare and after-school childcare, if the foster parent is single or both foster parents work. Based on the rate that the daycare charges, the assistance may cover 100% of the daycare fees or a portion thereof. Foster parents must use daycares that have an agreement with the State of Florida, which our agency will assist you in finding.

What if the child needs to see the doctor or needs prescription medication?

Foster children are eligible for Medicaid, which can be used to take them to the physician/dentist and to fill prescription medication.

Can foster children share a bedroom with my child?

Yes, foster children can share bedrooms with children of the same gender but cannot share a bed. Bunk beds are considered 2 separate beds; however, a double or queen-sized bed would only count as 1 bed. Babies can sleep in a crib in the bedroom with the foster parent(s) until the age of 1; at which point, they can no longer share a room with an adult.

How many children can be placed in a home?

The state does not allow more than 5 children (including the foster parents’ children) in a home. Also, the state will not allow more than 2 children under the age of 2 in a home.

Do foster parents receive any financial support?

Yes, based on the child’s age, foster parents receive a monthly stipend to help off-set the cost of caring for the foster child. The rate ranges from \$14.10 per day and up. Once per

year, foster parents also receive a clothing allowance for the children. The rate for clothing allowance ranges from \$200-\$300 (based on the child's age).

Can I request a child of a particular age?

Yes, our staff will work with you to determine the number of children, gender of children, and ages that will best work for your home. FBCH will then only contact you regarding a child/children who meet these criteria.

How is foster parenting with the Florida Baptist Children's Home (FBCH) different from fostering through the State or another agency?

FBCH is licensed through the State of Florida. Therefore, our agency and foster parents must meet all of the state's requirements for foster parents. However, because FBCH is a faith-based agency, we also have faith requirements for our staff and foster parents. All of our staff and foster parents must be Born-Again Christians and be actively involved in a Protestant church. Our foster parents are expected and required to take foster children to church with them.

FBCH provides more support to foster parents/children than other agencies do. FBCH has a clothes and toy closet that foster parents can access to get supplies for the foster children. FBCH requires that all placements in our foster homes go through our placement coordinator to ensure that the children and foster families are closely matched. FBCH also provides 24-hour per day emergency on-call coverage 365 days per year to ensure that foster parents receive the support they need day and night. Foster parents also meet together with our staff on a regular basis to receive training and to fellowship and pray with each other.