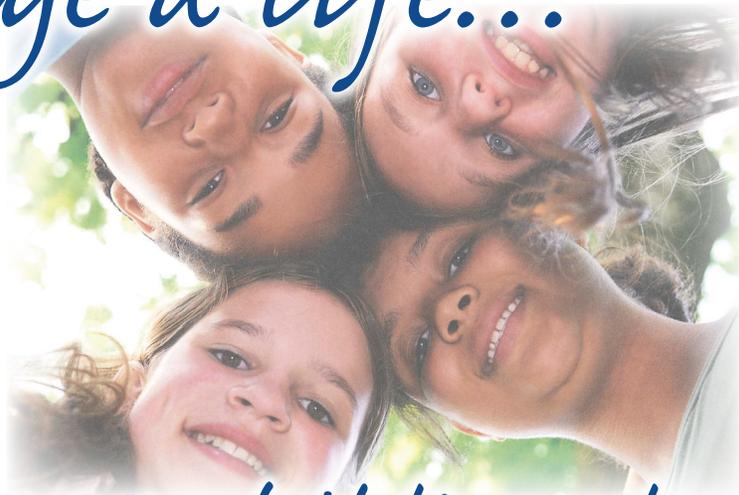


Change a life...



**Indiana Department of
Child Services (DCS)
Foster Care Program**

A child's and your own

What is foster care?

Providing a safe, nurturing, and stable environment for children who can no longer remain in their own homes due to the risk of abuse or neglect. This care is given with the intention of helping children safely reunify with their families.

Who is a foster parent?

Trained, licensed, adults over the age of 21 whom:

- Own or rent their own home
- May or may not have children of their own
- May work outside of the home with approved child care plans

What type of license is available through the DCS?

A Standard License is issued to foster parents who care for children without special medical, developmental, mental, or emotional needs. This requires 20 hours of Pre-Service training, along with First Aid, CPR, and Universal Precautions training. Ten hours of In-Service training is required each year to maintain this license.

Do foster parents receive financial compensation for the care of a foster child?

Reimbursement for "out of pocket" expenses are made on a "per diem" (per day) basis. Per diem rates vary according to the needs of the child and/or the agency that holds the license.

Why become a foster parent?

Foster parenting is about believing and investing in the future by helping children and families who are experiencing difficult circumstances.

What are the requirements for licensure?

- Pass a criminal history and background check that includes a fingerprint-based national history
- Home visits by a licensing specialist to ensure your home meets physical safety standards (e.g. fire extinguishers, adequate bedroom space, reliable transportation, financial stability)
- Positive personal reference statements
- Complete all required training

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent and want to learn more about the Indiana Foster Care Program you may either:

- Visit the DCS Foster Care website at:
<http://www.in.gov/dcs/2341.htm>
- Contact the DCS Central Office Foster Care Unit at:
1-888-631-9510
- Contact the Regional Foster Care Specialist in your area:

RFCS Name _____

Local DCS Office _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____