

STEPS TO BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT

1. Educate yourself about foster children

Each and every child deserves a family to be there for them every day providing love and guidance. Earning a child's trust may take time and energy. In addition, many children waiting in Ohio require regular medical care and/or counseling. Parenting a child with these needs can be hard work, but the rewards are tremendous for the right family.

2. Make an Inquiry

Families or individuals interested in becoming a foster parent should contact their local children services agency and inform the agency of their interest. The agency will begin the licensing process with the family.

Warren County Children Services
416 S. East St. Lebanon, OH 45036
513-695-1546

<http://www.co.warren.oh.us/ChildrenServices/> Foster Care and Adoption →Request and application

3. Fill Out an Application

All prospective foster parents must fill out and submit an application to the agency. The application will ask about your family background and for a description of the child you seek to foster.

4. Attend the Required Pre-Service Training

All families or individuals that wish to become a foster family must attend pre-service training. These training sessions are typically offered on weekdays, evenings or weekends. The sessions will instruct prospective foster families on basic knowledge about foster care and adoption, agency policies, and the roles of foster and foster-to-adopt parents. In addition, the sessions aim to increase the prospective foster families' understanding of foster/adoptive children's situations, needs and feelings. For a list of available trainings, please visit the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program website at: <http://ocwtp.net/SWORTC/CGTraining.html>. To register, click on the [SWORTC Caregiver/Pre-Service Registration Request Form](#) complete and submit the form.

5. Complete a Home Study

The home study will be conducted by an assigned Homestudy Assessor. The basic elements that make up a homestudy are personal interviews, home visits, submission of health records and financial statements, a personal statement, character references, educational training, a search of the statewide automated child welfare information system and criminal background checks. The assessor may have you provide or complete any number of documents. Those documents usually include: medical statements, a child characteristics checklist, a fire inspection, a safety audit, a financial statement, a local and federal criminal background check, and a water test.