

Myths About Foster Care: What's Stopping You?

MYTH: Fostering a child is dangerous because the birth families will present risk to our family.

FACT: Children in foster care are children who, through no fault of their own, had to be removed from their families because of abusive or neglectful situations. A child entering foster care will generally have continued visitation and contact with their birth family, but the frequency and nature of the visitation will vary depending on the specifics of the case and the placement being considered for the child. DSS will only ask foster parents to have contact with birth families when it is safe and appropriate for all involved.

MYTH: I am too old / too young to foster.

FACT: You must be at least 21 to foster for our programs. Many "empty-nesters" and retirees find foster parenting to be a rewarding way to share their life experiences.

MYTH: I don't have any children, and foster providers need to have parenting experience.

FACT: Not true! Many of our foster providers are childless. They are, however, responsible people who have made a commitment to children and have learned parenting skills through our excellent training programs.

MYTH: Foster children have been abused so much that they're beyond repair. I can't really make a difference anyway.

FACT: Children are amazingly resilient. Foster parents can make a tremendous difference in the life of a child by providing a structured, nurturing environment where a child can begin to heal. You **can** change the future of a child! **How powerful is that?!**

MYTH: I'm not allowed to adopt the children I foster.

FACT: While many children who enter foster care return to their birth families, there are still many who cannot return home. Nationally, of 51,000 children in foster care adopted last year, 54 percent were adopted by their foster parents.

MYTH: Once I take in a foster child, I'm on my own without any help.

FACT: When you foster, you become part of a team. The supports for foster providers include:

- 24-hour support and crisis intervention, seven days a week
- Respite services to give you a break when needed
- Local foster parent associations for training and support

MYTH: The expense of taking in a child would be too much.

FACT: Foster parents need to be financially stable before accepting a child into their home, and a monthly stipend is provided to help with the care of the child. The children in our programs also have medical, dental, and mental health insurance through Medicaid.

MYTH: I've heard it takes up to a year to become licensed as a foster parent.

FACT: By partnering with an SCDSS Licensing Coordinator, the licensing process generally takes about 120 days from the time the application is received. The Licensing Coordinator is with the applicant every step of the way to ensure that the licensing process is completed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Find more information at www.scfamilies.org

If you're ready, call today!
888.828.3555 (Heartfelt Calling)
Call Today!

