

## REWARDS OF BEING A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT

- ♥ *Experiencing a child's first tooth, first steps, first day of school, first date, driving*
- ♥ *Telling bedtime stories*
- ♥ *Making a difference in the community*
- ♥ *Contributing to the lives of children and families*
- ♥ *Being a positive influence in the life of a child*
- ♥ *Change the future one child at a time*
- ♥ *An adoptive parent may be eligible for a federal tax credit under section 23 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986*



In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 and Section 1808 of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C 622(b)(9), 671(a)(18), 674(d) and 1996b, the South Carolina Department of Social Services is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color and/or national origin when making foster care or adoption placement decisions.

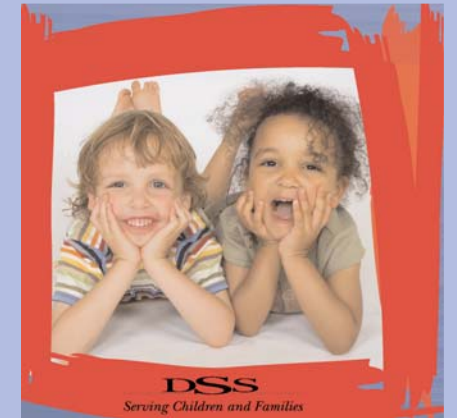
## WHAT IF I CAN'T BECOME A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT RIGHT NOW?

- *Volunteer to serve on a local Foster Care Review Board*
- *Volunteer to be a Guardian ad Litem*
- *Volunteer to mentor a child*
- *Volunteer to tutor a child*
- *Donate school supplies*
- *Donate a child's Christmas present*
- *Sponsor a child's birthday*
- *Sponsor a child for camp*
- *Donate children care packets*

Families may be eligible for a federal tax credit under Section 23 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Consult your tax advisor, the South Carolina Department of Revenue, or United States Internal Revenue Services for more information about the federal tax credit or available state tax credits.

DSS Brochure 3001 (JUL 09)  
Edition of MAY 09 may be used until supplies are depleted.

# FOSTER or ADOPT a CHILD



Every child deserves a loving home.

**1-888-227-3487**  
**1-888-CARE-4-US**

**[www.dss.sc.gov](http://www.dss.sc.gov)**

**DSS**  
*Serving Children and Families*

## WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Foster Care is the temporary care of children whose families are having problems that can lead to or has led to abuse or neglect.

Children, in the legal custody of the Department of Social Services, are placed in a licensed foster home or group care facility that can best meet their needs.

During this separation period, the department works toward returning the children to a safe home environment. If reuniting with their biological family is not possible, then permanency is sought through termination of parental rights and adoption. Youths remaining in foster care receive assistance to make a successful transition into adulthood.

## INTENSIVE FOSTER CARE AND CLINICAL SERVICES

The children in foster care have experienced abuse and/or neglect often resulting in stress and adjustment problems. Some children are in need of in-home care with intensive clinical services.

Specialized Foster Home Services (SFHS) is treatment-oriented substitute care in a family setting for children who require additional support services to live in a home environment.



SFHS is similar to regular foster care in that a child is placed in the home to live and is treated as a part of the family. There are additional expectations of SFHS foster parents to participate in treatment planning, service delivery and document the child's progress toward achieving goals.

## WHO ARE FOSTER PARENTS?

Foster parents are special people who recognize the special needs of children living in troubled families. With an investment of time, energy, love and guidance, foster parents can make a difference in the lives of children and families in need. Both individuals and couples can become licensed as foster parents. Foster parents receive financial reimbursement to meet the basic needs of the children. Children in the legal custody of the Department of Social Services may also be placed with relatives that are licensed by the Department to provide full time care, protection and nurturing.



## ADOPTION

Adoption is a court action that creates the relationship of parent and child where it did not exist previously. Children in foster care become free for adoption when their biological parents' rights are voluntarily relinquished or terminated by the court. In this new relationship, adoptive parents assume all rights and responsibilities of biological parents.

### Waiting Children

Children enter the foster care system as victims of neglect, abandonment, and/or abuse. They are placed in foster homes, group homes and treatment facilities. The biological home environment and temporary living condition often result in stress and adjustment problems as a child struggles to adjust to a new living environment. Through the love and stability offered by an adoptive home, an adoptive family provides waiting children with the permanency needed for a child to succeed in life.

## HOW CAN I BECOME A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT?

**Complete application and home study** with a home licensing or adoption specialist.

**Undergo criminal background check**, fingerprinting and check of the Central Registry of Abuse and Neglect for all household members 18 years and older.

**Complete 14 hours of training** provided by the department.

**Provide copies of birth certificates**, marriage licenses, divorce petitions and decrees, military discharge papers and other documents.

**Provide three references** from non-relatives who have known you for at least three years.

**Submit current medical reports** for all family members in the home.

**Pass fire and health department inspections** of the home.



The South Carolina Department of Social Services cannot and will not deny prospective foster/adoptive parents the opportunity to foster/adopt on the basis of race, color or national origin; nor delay or deny the placement of children on the basis of race, color or national origin.

**Yes, I am interested in becoming a Foster Parent or an Adoptive Parent**

Check Interest:  Foster Parent  Adoptive Parent  Specialized Foster Parent

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_