

Frequently Asked Questions

About Fostering

What are the general requirements for a foster home?

* You must have time to spend with a foster child. You need to have a bedroom available in your home. You also need to have experience with children and lots of love and patience.

Do I have to stay home full time to foster?

* Not always, we have a lot of foster parents that work full time and are able to foster. We just look at what your work schedule looks like to see if you have the time.
* However, if you want to foster babies under 12 months old, someone needs to be home full time as we do not put our babies in daycare.

Does a foster child need to have their own bedroom?

* Yes, they cannot share with your children or with you, unless it is a baby under 12 months old. Babies can be in a crib in your bedroom until 12 months old, but then there needs to be a bedroom for them to move into when they turn 12 months.
* Siblings can sometimes share a bedroom, depending on their age and gender.

I rent my home, is that allowed?

* Yes, we just make sure that you have an extra bedroom for a foster child.

What happens if I don’t have an extra bedroom?

* If you rent your home and you are willing to move to have more space to foster, we may be able to help with rental subsidy. We cannot do this if you own your home unfortunately.

Is there an age limit for foster parents?

* You must be at least 19 years old and have some life experience and experience with children, and we do not have an age limit, as long as you are healthy and can run around after children.

Will the child go to school near my house?

* When we first remove a child from their family, we want to keep them in the same school that they have been attending so we don’t change everything all at once for them. If it looks like they will be with you longer term, then we would look at changing schools closer to your home, but it might mean driving across town for a little while until we have a more solid plan in place.

Can I take a foster child to my church?

* This is something that we check with the family first to make sure that they are ok with it. In some cases, the family may not want their child to attend church and then you would need to make arrangements for the child (babysitter, or couples can switch weeks that they go). We also want our foster parents to be open to all religions and keeping our kids connected to their religion.

Can I foster a child that is the same ethnicity and religion as me?

* We do our best to match children to foster homes of the same background so that they have some familiarity. However, this is not always possible, and you can expect to have children of all backgrounds and be able to learn about where they are from and incorporate their culture into your home.

Is there a recommended age of child to foster if I have my own children?

* Generally, it seems to work well if you foster a child that is younger than your youngest child so as not to throw off the birth order. But we have had foster parents with young children foster teens, and parents with teens foster babies, it is mainly what you feel most comfortable with.

I am single, can I still foster?

* Absolutely, we have many single caregivers. We would just look at your work schedule and make sure you have the time to care for a child. It also may be best to foster a child that is school age and is in school while you are at work, and before and after school care can be arranged.

Can I adopt from foster care?

* Sometimes it is possible to adopt a child that has been in your care, but this is after all family options have been exhausted. If you are mainly wanting to adopt, we would suggest that you go through the adoption stream rather than fostering. We look at fostering as a temporary situation for our children because the main goal is to return them to their family.

How long are foster children usually in care for?

* We never know how long a child will be with us, it will depend on the situation for the family and what the parents need to do to have their children move back home safely. It could be a few weeks, months or sometimes years so you would need to commit for short term and long term.

What is the process to becoming a foster parent?

* The first step would be to come to an information session to learn more about fostering and see if it is a good fit for you and your family. You can contact the recruitment team to arrange a meeting or go to Gov.bc.ca/fostercaregiving to learn more. It usually takes around one year to complete all the training and home study before you can foster.

**Contact the Foster Home Recruitment Team to set up an information session today:**

604-209-2681

BCfosterparents.ca

Gov.bc.ca/fostercaregiving