

Frequently Asked Questions about Becoming a Resource Parent

Q. How do I become a foster parent?

A. The first step is to contact DCCCA Child Placing Agency at 1-800-573-8812 or www.dccca.org/fccontact.html. You will be connected to a Child Placing Agency worker and the CPA worker will help support you throughout the licensing process. Your CPA worker will work with you to schedule Deciding Together classes that are one night a week for 7 weeks. During the completion of the DT training, your worker will help you complete the Kansas Department of Health Environment licensing paperwork.

Q. What qualities should I possess to become a foster parent?

A. Generally, our most successful foster parents are open-minded, dependable, patient and willing to learn new parenting styles for children with different needs. Having a flexible schedule, being tolerant of change and demonstrating the ability to follow guidelines are all important qualities for success.

Q. How long will a child stay in my home?

A. This varies depending on the needs of the child and the circumstances of his or her placement. Some children are returned home after only a few months; others after a year or more. Sometimes, children who can't go home become eligible for adoption; others remain in foster care until age 18. Some foster parents choose to care for children on an emergency basis or for respite care, having them placed in their home for only a few days at a time.

Q. Must I take any child you want to place with me?

A. No. Your DCCCA CPA worker will contact you with available information about the child we believe "matches" with your household. You may request additional information, and you may always accept or reject a child's placement. Saying "no" does not affect our willingness to call you about other children in the future. We respect your right to do what you think is best for your family. Once we've found the right match for both you and the child, we will provide you with training to meet the specific needs of that child.

Q. Will I get to meet the child before he or she moves in with me?

A. Sometimes. If time allows, we try to arrange pre-placement visits so you can meet ahead of time. In many cases, however, a child's need for a foster home is urgent, and you won't be able to meet your foster child until he or she arrives at your door.

Q. Do you offer financial compensation?

A. Yes, DCCCA provides reimbursement to cover room and board costs of foster children. This money is provided to cover such expenses as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, recreation and allowance, and should not be considered income. Foster children will have medical cards to use to meet their medical needs.

Q. Where and when do children visit with their families of origin?

A. When the goal is to eventually reunite the family, visits are crucial to help the child maintain a sense of belonging and identity. Visitation schedules vary and may be scheduled twice a week or less than once a month. You'll be asked to transport the child to visits, which are generally held in a supervised office setting.

Q. What kind of help and support will I get?

A. DCCCA maintains frequent, consistent contact with foster families, and we are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year to support and guide you. DCCCA also provides respite care, both on a regular schedule and on an emergency basis. Additionally, DCCCA maintains foster parent insurance for each foster home.

