

Foster Care – FAQ's

What's the difference between foster care and adoption?

- Foster care is **temporary** in nature. Foster parents care for a child in their home on a temporary basis until the child is able to return home with their parents, relatives or other kin (reunification). They must be willing to work in partnership with the child's primary family and their caseworker. They provide food, shelter, guidance, acceptance, and especially understanding and support for children when they are away from their primary family and surroundings. Foster parents must be willing to give of themselves without expecting children to give back to them. It is a challenging job to be a foster parent, but not impossible, and it is not without rewards.
- Adoption is a **permanent** legal process which places a child with an adoptive family who will provide a safe and nurturing home for that child.

How soon will I get a placement?

- Unfortunately, we cannot provide a time frame as to when you will be contacted for a placement. This is dependent upon the types of children coming into custody and the child characteristics you are certified for.

Where can I take pre-service classes and how do I register?

- Pre-service classes are held throughout the year at Greene County Children Services, 601 Ledbetter Road, Suite A, Xenia, Ohio 45385. You may register for pre-service by calling the Western Ohio Regional Training Center at 937-427-4540 and pressing 2 to speak with an individual who may schedule you.

How many kids do you have in care?

- The agency has anywhere from 120-130 children in foster care at any given time. This number changes regularly due to children entering and leaving foster care on a regular basis.

Can I just do Foster Care?

- Yes, you can just do foster care.

Can I just do Adoption?

- Yes, you can just do adoption.

Can I do both Foster and Adoption?

- Yes, you can become certified for foster care and approved for adoption at the same time.

Can I just do respite?

- Yes, you may just do respite.

Can I do foster to adopt?

- The term "foster to adopt" is not a term that is utilized by Greene County Children Services. Foster care and adoption are two distinct areas. Foster care is temporary and adoption is permanent. It is

the expectation of foster parents to be supportive of the agency's efforts to reunify a foster child with their family.

How quickly can my homestudy be completed?

- Once you have completed the application to become a foster and/or adoptive parent with Greene County Children Services and it has successfully been screened in by the agency, the homestudy process takes a minimum of a 6 months to complete. Homestudies will not be expedited.

Can I transfer my license and if so, how?

- Yes, if you are a certified foster home in the state of Ohio and have been certified for at least a year, you may request to transfer agencies. Transfer requests must be completed in writing. You may send the written request to your licensing agency or the agency you would like to transfer to in order to initiate the process.

How much does it cost?

- Costs vary; there are typically fees associated with certain requirements of the homestudy. At minimum, fees may be charged for fire inspections, drug screens, TB tests, medical screens, well water testing and CPR/First Aid Certification. The costs associated with the homestudy are the responsibility of the applicant and will not be reimbursable by the agency.