

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL FOSTER PARENTS

- ♥ Are tolerant and open minded
- ♥ Are flexible , supportive, encouraging
- ♥ Are understanding of children's feelings
- ♥ Are team players able to work with DSS
- ♥ Have good communication skills and are good listeners
- ♥ Are calm, clear thinkers in times of crisis
- ♥ Have emotional room for others
- ♥ Are able to accept the temporary nature of the child's placement
- ♥ HAVE A VERY HEALTHY SENSE OF HUMOR!

HOW DO I BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?

- ♥ Be at least 21 years old
 - ♥ Be mature and in reasonable sound physical and mental health
- ♥ Be mature enough to relate realistically to a foster child, his family and the agency
- ♥ Be financially stable enough to provide an adequate home environment for the child
- ♥ Provide each child his/her own bed, at least 45 square feet of space in a bedroom, and have enough room for a child to store his/her belongings.
- ♥ Attend training (MAPP)
- ♥ Be cleared through the State Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment
 - ♥ Be fingerprinted
 - ♥ Have an Alcohol Evaluation and a physical exam including a TB Test.

WHAT DOES A FOSTER PARENT DO?

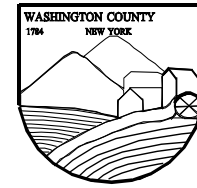
- ♥ Provides a comfortable bed for the child
 - ♥ Provides a place for personal belongings
- ♥ Shops for child's clothes
- ♥ Arranges medical and dental care
- ♥ Registers the child in school and follows up on school progress
 - ♥ Takes the child to appointments and activities
- ♥ Makes it possible for the child to have access to community services

**STRENGTHS AS
RELATED TO
THE TWELVE
SKILLS FOR
SUCCESSFUL
FOSTERING AND
ADOPTING**

- 1. Know your own family*
- 2. Communicate effectively*
- 3. Know the children*
- 4. Build strengths; meet needs*
- 5. Work in partnership*
- 6. Be loss and attachment experts*
- 7. Manage behaviors*
- 8. Build connections*
- 9. Build self esteem*
- 10. Assure health and safety*
- 11. Assess impact*
- 12. Make an informed decision*

**NOW'S THE TIME!!!!
BECOME A FOSTER
PARENT
DON'T LET TIME RUN OUT
FOR CHILDREN IN NEED
ARE YOU WILLING TO
TAKE THE TIME TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE IN A
CHILD'S LIFE?
BECOME A FOSTER
PARENT!**

***WHAT IS FOSTER
CARE?***



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