



For More Information

Thank you for your commitment to know more about becoming a foster family. You could be the one to change the lives of children.

855.830.5062

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StrongerFamiliesTogether.sd.gov

Keep In Mind

Hundreds of South Dakota children need foster families while their own families work to overcome circumstances that make the child unsafe.

The more foster families there are in our communities, the easier it is to keep siblings together and keep children in their own neighborhoods and schools. Foster families of every culture are needed to help children build and maintain positive identities.



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Bond

Sister

Family

Love

Brother

Caring

Happiness



Help Change Lives

In communities all across South Dakota, children are in need of loving and safe foster homes.

If you choose to become a foster parent, you will have a team of professionals to support you. They will ensure you are informed about what to expect, prepare you for the experience, and provide you with the resources you need like parenting techniques.

Foster parents are essential in the reunification of families and help to change the lives of parents and children in our communities.

Stronger
FAMILIES
Together

Licensing Requirements

There are five basic licensing standards required for every potential foster family. Families must meet these standards to be licensed.

1. Foster parents must be at least 21 years of age.
2. Your house must be a safe place, without structural or health hazards.
3. A family must have sufficient income to meet the essential needs of their family. The Department of Social Services provides monthly financial assistance to support the needs of the children in foster care.
4. To ensure the safety of children in foster care, potential foster families are screened for past criminal activity and reports of abuse or neglect.
5. Attendance and completion of a 30-hour foster parent education and training program to prepare and support families for success as a foster parent.

Did You Know?

- Foster parents may be single, married or divorced; parents, grandparents or people with or without children of their own.
- Foster parents may be either homeowners or renters.
- Foster families receive financial assistance to help with child care and other costs of caring for the child in foster care.
- Children in foster care will have their own medical, dental and vision insurance.
- Children in foster care may share a bedroom with children of the same gender.
- Some foster parents choose to foster children for many years. Others choose to foster for a short period of time. The choice is yours.