

FOSTER PARENT JOB DESCRIPTION

- TITLE:** Foster Parent
- JOB OBJECTIVE:** To help the child in your temporary care to be able to have a permanent home of his or her own.
- RESPONSIBILITIES:** To help the child in your home maintain or improve relationships with family and friends; school adjustment; and physical growth and development.
- To maintain an attitude of respect and understanding toward the parents of the child in your home because these people are important to the child.
- To help the agency in the development and implementation of casework plans for the child in your home.
- To continue to meet the needs of your own family while snaring your family with the child in your care.
- QUALIFICATIONS:** Whether you are an older adult or a younger adult, single, or married, a working or non-working parent, there may be a place for you on our team, if you:
- Can make a commitment to be meaningful to a child's lifetime instead of making a lifetime commitment to a child
 - Can participate in pre-service meetings about your new parenting job.
 - Through pre-service meetings, can demonstrate that you are a creative problem-solver; have listening skills, flexibility and sense of humor.
 - Respect children and families.
 - Can manage your family finances with the addition of another child and the agency's amount of reimbursement or medical care, clothing, room and board.

From: Developing a Foundation for Foster Family Recruitment and Retention: A Training Manual, by Eileen Mayers Pasztor and Elyse M. Burgess. Nova University, Fort Lauderdale, FL, in press.

TRAINING: Training is provided both prior to placement of a child in your home and on a regular basis following placement. Trainers are experienced foster parents, caseworkers and other community members who provide foster care resources.

COMMITMENT: If you agree to be a foster parent, we ask that you make a commitment to work with the child in your home for a minimum of six months, unless there are plans for the child to move to a permanent home in less time.

You will not receive a salary, only reimbursement for the cost of child care, but you will receive other kinds of 'paychecks' or rewards:

An opportunity to make new friends.

New learning experiences.

A terrific challenge.

The opportunity to develop new parenting skills.

A special role in the community.

The satisfaction of helping a child and his or her family in improving their relationship.