

How to Become a Foster Family

Thousands of children enter the foster care system every year due to challenging family circumstances, urgently needing the love and stability of a caring home. As believers, we have the opportunity to demonstrate God's love and compassion by opening our hearts and homes to these vulnerable children and their families.

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Register and Attend an Orientation Meeting

At this session, you will learn about the foster care requirements, state guidelines, and how Lifeline will support your family throughout the process. You will have the opportunity to gather information, ask questions, and decide if fostering is right for your family.

2

Attend Foster Parent (TIPS) Training

The state of Alabama requires foster families to complete TIPS training, a 10-week class (three hours each week). This training will equip you with practical knowledge and trauma-informed skills to effectively care for and provide a safe and loving home for children in need.

3

Complete the Home Study Process

During the home study process, the Lifeline team will meet with you and your family, tour your home, and gather information to ensure readiness for fostering. The goal of this process is to create a complete family portfolio and ensure you are well prepared to welcome children into your home.

4

Become a Licensed Foster Family with the Department of Human Resources (DHR)

After your training and home study are complete, your file is sent to DHR for final approval. Once you are licensed, you are officially ready to open your home to children who need a safe, loving environment.

5

Begin Fostering!

With your foster license in hand and Lifeline's ongoing support, you can now welcome children into your home. You will serve them and partner in ministry to their biological families - offering hope, stability, and the love of Christ.

Ready to take the next step?



Scan the QR code to register for an upcoming Orientation Meeting!

Foster Care - FAQs

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What is the greatest need in foster care?

There is an especially high demand for families who are open to fostering older children (ages 6 and up) and sibling groups. By welcoming these children and youth, you're helping meet an important need, ensuring siblings can remain together and older children have the support they deserve.

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Can I indicate what ages or genders of children I am open to fostering?

Absolutely! Every family is unique, and during your home study process, we'll discuss which age and genders you feel best equipped to foster. This helps ensure the most supportive and beneficial match for both the children and your family.

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How many children are reunified with their biological families?

Reunification is the primary goal of foster care and approximately 50% of children are reunified with their biological families once they have the support and resources to provide a safe environment. Other outcomes for children include adoption (25%), aging out (9%), and kinship placements (6%).

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How can I advocate for and minister to the child's biological family?

Foster parents have a unique opportunity to build positive and supportive relationships with the biological families of children in their homes. Providing regular communication and offering prayer and encouragement are practical ways to support and minister to a child's biological family.

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When are the training classes?

Lifeline offers the state required TIPS training classes in the spring and fall of each year. These classes are held at local churches that partner with Lifeline. Specific dates, times, and locations are posted on our website so you can plan ahead.

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What is the average timeline to become a foster family?

While this can differ from family to family, on average it can take around 4-6 months to complete the training, home study process, and receive your foster care license from the Department of Human Resources (DHR). This timeline may vary depending on various factors like class schedules, paperwork, and home study requirements.