



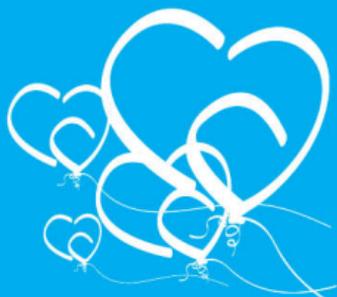
# FOSTER CARE

OPEN YOUR HEART AND HOME TO A CHILD IN NEED...



**Children's  
Authority**  
of Trinidad and Tobago

[www.ttchildren.org](http://www.ttchildren.org)





**FOSTER  
CARE**

**Foster Care** is intended to be a temporary living situation for children who are not able to live with their families due to circumstances beyond the family's control or because of abusive situations. The ultimate goal of Foster Care is to provide a safe, stable and nurturing home environment for children until they can be reunited with their family where appropriate, or until other permanent living arrangements can be made.

During this time, where possible, and in the best interest of the child, the Children's Authority will endeavour to work with the child's family to strengthen their childcare capabilities in order to support the child's reintegration into their family. Where this is not possible, alternative permanent care solutions will be sought.



## **CHILDREN WHO MAY BE PLACED IN FOSTER CARE**

Children are placed in Foster Care for a variety of reasons such as:

- *Abuse, neglect (intentional or unintentional), abandonment*
- *Certain children who are in the process of being adopted*
- *Children with behavioural challenges or special needs*
- *Children without parents or any other family*

The Children's Authority strives to keep siblings together where possible. The Foster Care Unit will work towards matching the needs of each foster child with the special strengths of each foster family.

## **WHY BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?**

Becoming a foster parent is a positive, life-changing experience. Foster parenting involves providing a selfless kind of love and support to children in need of a secure and stable home.

## **WHO ARE FOSTER PARENTS?**

Anyone can be a great foster parent.

- *They may be single persons, married couples, persons with young families, retired persons, persons with full-time jobs, even persons who have never been parents.*
- *They are mentors, caregivers and role models.*
- *They are people who will provide a warm, loving home for a child while working hand in hand with the Children's Authority.*



## HOW CAN YOU BECOME A FOSTER PARENT?

Please contact the Children's Authority if you are interested in becoming a foster parent. Information about the Foster Care process will be provided in order to help you determine whether Foster Care is appropriate for you.

Once an expression of interest has been made, an application pack will be shared with you. As part of the initial application process, you will be required to provide the Children's Authority with the following:

- ***A Medical Certificate of Fitness***
- ***Photo Identification***
- ***The names and contact information of two referees***
- ***A Police Certificate of Character from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service issued within six months before the application for all members of household over the age of 18***

There will be additional screening of all applicants. Training provided by the Children's Authority will be mandatory for all foster providers.





## Types of Foster Care Arrangements

- **Emergency Foster Care** provides for the immediate needs of shelter, food, clothing and support in emergency situations. This can last up to two weeks.
- **Medium Term Foster Care** is recommended for children whom familial reunification is possible or placement with family or a fit person is being sought. This can usually last up to six (6) months.
- **Long Term Foster Care** could be pursued for children for whom familial reunification or kinship care is impossible or very difficult to achieve. This can span any period of time beyond six (6) months.
- **Specialist Foster Care** aims to serve children with special psychological, social, physical, behavioural and emotional needs. These needs require more intensive or therapeutic services, which can be provided by trained specialist foster parents.
- **Respite Care** is short term care which aims to give foster parents some support for a variety of reasons, including illness of a foster parent or a family crisis.
- **Kinship Foster Care** allows for relatives (other than a parent) to be provided with support from the Authority, where appropriate, to care for a child related to them. Certain basic safety criteria must be met to enable a relative to be approved by the Authority for this role.





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