

Myths and Facts About Becoming a Licensed Respite Foster Parent

Thinking about becoming a licensed foster parent? Many people have questions about what is required. The information below clears up common myths and highlights the facts

COMMON MYTHS

- ✓ You must be married.
- ✓ You must own your own home.
- ✓ You cannot live in an apartment.
- ✓ You must have a specific income.
- ✓ You must have experience raising children.
- ✓ You must be a certain age.
- ✓ You must vaccinate your children.

THE FACTS

- ✓ Foster parents can be married, single, in a relationship, or living with a partner.
- ✓ You do not have to own your home or live in a single-family house. Foster parents may live in a condo, apartment, duplex, or other approved housing.
- ✓ There is no specific income requirement. You simply need to show that you can meet your own needs and the needs of any additional children in your home.
- ✓ Foster parents are not required to have parenting experience. Your experience is considered when matching children with your home for respite services.
- ✓ Training opportunities are provided to help foster parents gain the knowledge and skills needed to support children in their care.
- ✓ Foster parents must be at least 18 years old. There is no maximum age requirement, as long as the foster parent can meet the needs of the children in their home.
- ✓ Foster parents do not have to vaccinate their children; if your children are not vaccinated you can be licensed for children 7 and older. You **cannot** have children in your home under the age of 7.

Bottom line: Foster parents come from many different backgrounds. What matters most is having a safe, stable and supportive home for children who need respite services.