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Program information and contact
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Youth Service Bureau



**Communities that Care
Have Families that Share**

Helping young people and families
succeed by serving them in their home,
school and community.

**424 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, IL 61350
815.433.3953**

Foster care is a program for children in state custody who are unable to remain safely in their home. Children in foster care stay with a family who provides safety, nurturing, support and role models for change. Foster care is meant to be a temporary, short term solution to an emergency.

Important to know:

- Whenever possible, YSB preserves the child's family. A child should be separated from his or her family only when the family is absent or is unwilling or unable to provide a minimally acceptable family life.
- **The purpose of foster care** is to provide safety, continuity, consistency and permanency in a family setting for the growing child. When returning home is not possible, alternative permanent plans must be pursued.
- **Current foster care policy** directs the case worker to appropriate service delivery and timely permanent planning decisions.

To improve results for children and families in the foster care system, four key strategies are used:

1. Active community partnership
2. Neighborhood-based recruitment and retention of foster homes
3. Self evaluation and data driven decisions
4. Team decision meetings involving both birth parents and foster parents, when appropriate.

Give families a chance:

The YSB Foster Care program offers a variety of foster care experiences:

- Emergency Foster Care
- Short-Term Respite Foster Care
- Traditional Foster Care
- Specialized Foster Care



Training & Support Services

- Pre-service and ongoing foster parent training
- Financial reimbursement for room and board
- Clothing and personal allowance
- Reimbursement for travel when excessive, with prior approval
- Foster parent support

Who can make a difference? Persons who:

Will share their heart, home and love with a child in need

Will provide support and love to children within your own community

Will offer a caring environment that will bring a child the future he/she deserves

- Are single, married, or in a legal civil union
- Rent or own their home
- Are at least 21 years of age
- Have sufficient income to provide for their family
- Complete state licensing process
- Are willing to work as a member of a professional team
- Are able to help a child cope with separation, loss and grief
- Are supportive of the child's biological family and return home goals
- Help the child preserve relationships as well as build new ones
- Comply with licensing standards for foster family homes



SHARE YOUR
HOME AND HEART
BECOME A
FOSTER PARENT!