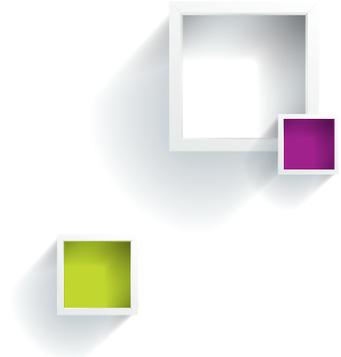


# UNDERSTANDING FOSTER PARENT CERTIFICATION



## LEVELS 2 & 3



### LEVEL 2

### LEVEL 3

#### THE BASICS

#### LEVEL 2-GENERAL FOSTER CARE

General foster care is caring for children who have minimal to moderate physical, behavioral and emotional issues from exposure to maltreatment. These children have experienced trauma, and may struggle with adjusting to a new environment and certain triggers, but with consistent and supportive care can flourish.



#### LEVEL 3- TREATMENT FOSTER CARE

Treatment foster care is for children who have been exposed to significant trauma and often need more support to address their needs. These children often react with a number of behaviors that are unique to them. They can also have medical needs, mental health diagnoses, or cognitive delays/disorders. These children may be challenging, but with supportive services, stability, and love, great improvements can be made.



## LEVEL 2



### REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Minimum of 21 years old
- ▶ Pass a criminal background and caregiver check
- ▶ No prior involvement with a child welfare agency due to an upheld accusation of child abuse or neglect
- ▶ Possess a sufficient verifiable source of income
- ▶ Meet home requirements, such as having smoke detectors and safe stairs, and have homeowner's or renter's liability insurance
- ▶ Bedroom space for a foster child that meets licensing standards
- ▶ Vehicle liability insurance and valid driver's license if transporting a foster child
- ▶ Willing and able to work with child's biological family
- ▶ Consider accepting and nurturing a child in need with short notice
- ▶ Patience, a sense of humor, love to give



## LEVEL 3

In addition to level 2 foster care requirements you must meet at least 3 of the following;

- ▶ 1 year experience as a foster parent or kinship provider
- ▶ Minimum 5 years experience working with or parenting children
- ▶ High school diploma or equivalent
- ▶ Minimum 500 hours experience as a respite care provider for children under the supervision of a human services agency
- ▶ College, vocational, technical or advanced degree in the area of child's treatment needs such as nursing, medicine, social work, or psychology
- ▶ A substantial relationship with the child; need case manager approval
- ▶ Work or professional experience demonstrating the knowledge, skill, ability, and motivation to meet the needs of a child with a level of need of 3



### TRAINING

Level 2 foster parents must complete 9 hours of training prior to having a foster child placed. During the first two years of licensure, foster/adoptive parents must complete 33 hours of foundation training and 3 training hours that include information about trauma informed care.

Level 3 foster parents must complete 42 hours of training prior to having a child placed in their home. This training is completed in 90-120 days. During the first two years of licensure, foster parents must complete 18 hours of training.



## LEVEL 2

## LEVEL 3

### PLACEMENTS

Most children enter foster care at level 2. Level 2 foster parents can receive placement of children moving from another foster home or from a relative. 65% of foster children are placed on an emergency basis. When possible, pre-placement visits allow the child and foster family more time to get to know each other.

After a child is assessed and found to need a treatment foster parent, current open homes are assessed to find a good match. The foster parent reviews the information, and a meeting is arranged with the case manager and treatment foster care specialist. The next step is to schedule 2-3 pre-placement visits.

### DESCRIPTION OF A CHILD



Darrien is a 9 year old boy who was exposed to domestic violence in his home. He is considered laid back, mellow, and enjoys school and video games. Darrien has low self-esteem, gets frustrated when he doesn't get his way and will shut down. He craves attention, but has not learned how to ask for it in healthy ways. Darrien would do well with a family who can help him increase his social skills with peers, and how to learn to trust others. Darrien has a strong connection to his brother who is placed in another foster home. Maintaining this connection would be vital to his well-being.

Alicia is a 10 year old girl who has experienced significant abuse and neglect in her father's home. She can be hyperactive, difficult to re-direct, swears and fights frequently. She tends to be argumentative with her brother and peers, and has a hard time taking responsibility for her actions; even when caught in the act of misbehaving. Alicia had a psychological evaluation and was prescribed ADHD medications. Alicia does well in school however her behavioral issues keep her from reaching her full potential. Alicia loves animals and hopes to be a veterinarian one day. Alicia would do well with a family who is patient and able to help her work on her aggression towards others.



## LEVEL 2

### SUPPORT



Level 2 foster parents receive monthly contact and quarterly home visits from their licensing specialist and monthly visits from the child's case manager. Additional contact and visits can occur outside of those time frames as needed. These visits are focused on how the family is adjusting to placement and how the workers can help support the home environment.

There are a number of resources in place for parents, including access to the Mobile Urgent Treatment Team (known as 'MUTT') providing 24/7 support and counseling, foster parent mentors and support groups, and caregiver support and trauma informed care activities/techniques.

Respite care is received upon request.



Level 3 foster parents receive a minimum of weekly home visits from their treatment foster care specialist. Visits are focused on the family and how the child is adjusting in the home. 24/7 access is provided to a treatment foster care specialist and supervisor for times of need.

Treatment foster children come into foster care with additional specific needs. They are provided with assessments and services to facilitate effective care and treatment. Level 3 foster parents are responsible for transportation to various services, and are involved in the service provisions as they are an integral part of the team.

Treatment foster parents are encouraged to take provided respite in order to give a much needed break from caring for children. They accrue 2 respite days per month. Treatment foster care specialists assist in securing respite care.

### ADOPTION

The goal of foster care is for children to reunify with their biological families, but when that's not possible they need adoption. Level 2 certification has the option to assess for adoption approval during the home study process. With a dual license in place, foster parents are ready to move forward with an adoption if parental rights are terminated.

The goal of foster care is for children to reunify with their biological families, but when that's not possible the current foster home can consider adoption. In order to adopt, an adoption approval must be issued for that specific child, which entails an additional condensed home study process.

