

Support

The agency will provide or ensure:

- Ongoing training
- Mileage reimbursement for visits more than one county away
- Clothing vouchers
- Ongoing support

Family Foster Care Criteria

Family Stability

Homes must provide a stable home environment.

Philosophy

Embrace the goal of providing foster children with a positive, supportive-structured family system. Foster a strong relationship with the birth parents, and provide a strong, supportive role. Utilize respite.

Reference Checks

References are obtained by friends, schools, counselors, and physicians among others.

Fostering Principles

- Mentoring families in a time of need
- Caring for children during a hard time in their lives and in need of support
- Building stronger families in our community
- Including parents in all information and appointments



For more information contact
Crawford County Children Services
(419) 563-1570

Sue Bauer, ext 226
Foster Care & Adoption Coordinator

Children Services is open weekdays
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Crawford County Job and Family Services

Children Services

224 Norton Way
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820
Phone: (419) 563-1570
Fax: (419) 562-0050

Crawford County Job & Family Services

Children Services

You Can Change A Lifetime!

Foster Care And Adoption

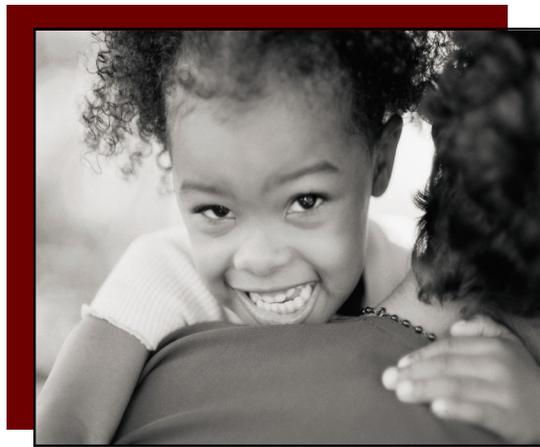


Fostering Change

What is Foster Care?

Foster care is an out-of-home placement for children who have been removed from their home and temporary custody has been awarded to Children Services by the court system. Foster care is utilized when a suitable relative or non-relative placement is not available or appropriate for the children.

Foster parents provide temporary care for children who are placed in the care of Children Services because of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or unstable family conditions.



How to Get Started?

To qualify to become a foster or adoptive parent, you:

- Must be at least 18 years of age to adopt; 21 to become a foster parent
- Can be married or single
- Can own or rent your home
- Can work outside the home
- Don't have to earn a lot of money, just enough to support yourself
- Need a safety inspection for your home
- Agree to a criminal background check
- Receive free training
- Receive financial support, based on your child's needs



The goal of foster care is to reunite children with their families once the problems that led to their removal have been corrected. The role of a foster parent is that of a caregiver and nurturer. The objective of a foster parent is to provide a safe, predictable, caring and structured family environment while acting as a mentor to a child that is, in many cases, anxious to be returned home.

Foster parents are there to facilitate a strong bond between a child and the child's family. Treatment, if any, occurs outside of the foster home. Foster parents are supported by the children's caseworker who completes monthly contacts and provides support services both in and out of the fostercare setting.

Preservice Training

Families that work with Children Services receive free "preservice" training. "Preservice" training sessions are meant to help the family prepare for the unique needs of children who have been abused or neglected, and provide good parenting information.

Completing the home study process is designed to be a mutual assessment process where the agency and foster caregivers work together to determine if foster care and/or adoption is the best option for the prospective foster caregivers. Foster caregivers do not pay for the home study process.

Please note that foster parents are required to participate in ongoing education in order to maintain their license from year to year.

If you are interested in learning about the current training requirements and where to find classes, contact Sue Bauer at Crawford County Children Services, 419-563-1570 extension 226.

Did you know that there are nearly 500,000 American children in foster care? These youth need stable, loving care until they can either safely reunite with their families or establish other lifelong relationships with a nurturing adult.