

Foster Care Fact Sheet



Foster Parenting is an amazing opportunity to ensure all kids can have stable and loving homes. Fostering a child can be an extremely rewarding experience, but it's not without its challenges. At Tidewater Friends of Foster Care, we target our outreach to increase the number of available family foster homes, hereby reducing the need for group-home placements for children. We provide enrichment programs to promote a happy and healthy childhood.

Our Mission

Tidewater Friends of Foster Care is committed to enriching the lives of foster children in our community.

Through targeted outreach and enrichment programs, we strive to ensure the best possible childhood for all children in the foster care system.



Tidewater Friends of Foster Care

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Eligibility Requirements

- Must be at least 21 years' old
- Have adequate space in the home to accommodate 1 or more children
- Possess a valid driver's license
- Own a working, inspected and registered motor vehicle
- Be financially stable
- Have clean background checks
- Home is safe and free of hazards with working smoke detectors
- Agree to home study, including all family members

Parental Responsibilities

- Respect the child's confidential information
- Provide transportation to all appointments
- Participate in required meetings
- Work with the treatment team to support child's plan
- Be sensitive to the needs of your child and his/her trauma
- Ensure the child is adequately supervised at all times
- Inform caseworkers when and if problems or illness arise

Additional Information

- Fostering a child is completely free
- Fostering can be full or part time
- Currently there are over 5,000 children in the Virginia foster care system, with over 10% ready for adoption
- Support and other post-adoptions resources are available
- Adoption from foster care is permanent



Typical Home Approval Checklist

- Working telephone with voicemail or answering machine
- Operable heating. Ventilation and cooling system
- Operable refrigeration, cooking and toilet facilities
- Children's bedrooms are not used as passageway and must have doors for privacy
- Closet and/or drawer space for child's clothing and possessions
- Bedroom will have adequate square footage for each child
- Separate bed for each foster child
- Children over age 2 will not share room or bed with a resource parents or other adult
- Children over age 3 will not share a bedroom with a child of the opposite gender
- Children under age 7 will not be on the top bunk of bunk beds
- Children with documented cognitive or physical disabilities will not be on the top bunk of bunk beds
- Bed furniture will be equipped with clean, safe and comfortable sleeping furnishings
- Rooms used by children are well lighted for activities and safety
- Space for recreation and activities
- If a household member smokes, a safety plan will be put in place
- It will be documented is alcohol is kept in home
- Written evacuation plan in case of emergencies posted and practiced at least once a month
- Written plan for seeking professional emergency assistance, including phone numbers
- A written emergency preparedness and response plan
- All firearms and other weapons kept unloaded and stored in locked cabinet or area
- Ammunition stored in a locked place separate from the firearms and weapons
- Operable smoke alarms in all cooking areas and one additional per level house
- Cleaning supplies and other toxic substances stored away from food and locked- out of reach of children
- Shower or tub has non-skid surface, mat or strips
- At least one operable type of ABC fire extinguisher, 2A rated, installed on each floor
- First aid kit or the makings of one including flashlight
- Prescribed and non-prescribed medications are stored in a locked area and out of reach of children
- Exposure control kit- provided during training
- The home shall be free from exposed wiring
- The walls and ceilings shall be free from holes and lead
- The home shall be free from rodent and insect infestation
- Screens on all doors/windows used for ventilation
- Safety plan if the home is accessible to any open bodies of water that could pose a danger to a child
- Proof of shots and license will be required for household pets
- If there are pets a veterinarian statement will be required
- The home will be clean, in good repaired and free of hazards
- The grounds around the home will be properly maintained, free of litter and debris, and free of hazards