

MA Department of Children and Families
 Framingham Area Office
 63 Fountain Street
 Framingham, MA 01702

"We all enter the world with fairly simple needs: to be protected, to be nurtured, to be loved unconditionally, and to belong."

Who are the children in foster care?
 The Massachusetts Department of Children and Families has children of all ages in foster care, from infants to older adolescents and from all ethnic and economic backgrounds

The Facts About Foster Care

You can be at home or work.

You can help change our lifetime!

Can I decide the age or gender of the child?
 Yes as part of the licensing process, you and your social worker will decide together which children placed in your home would be the best match for your family.

Foster parents are especially needed for:
 sibling groups, school age children, teens, linguistic and culturally diverse children, infants and toddlers, children with special needs and medically involved children.

Did you know...
 There are different kinds of foster parents. If a child you have a relationship with comes into care, you can become the child's foster parent almost immediately after meeting criminal record and safety standards. The license study will be done after placement and we will work with you to provide education and support in this role. More than half of our children are placed with relatives, friends, or community connections.

You may be single, married, partnered, divorced or widowed to become a foster parent.



You may have up to six children residing in your home at any given time. This includes birth children, adopted children, foster children, relative's children, or day care children.

In Massachusetts, you need to be at least 18 years of age to become a foster parent.

How long do children stay in foster care?
 We need families for overnight care, for 10 day short-term stays or long term for 3-18 months until the child is reunited with his/her family. Over a half of our children are cared for by relatives or people who know them e.g., teachers, coaches. Did you know that you can step forward for a particular child you know?

You may either rent or own your own home.



Foster A Future!
 Helping a child and family provides endless rewards.

Call Nancy MacDonald or Jaclyn Higgins at 508-424-0100

What support services are available to foster parents?
 You will be assigned a Foster Care Social Worker. There will also be a Social Worker assigned to each child placed in your home. There are also other supportive services available to assist you that your Foster Care Social Worker will discuss with you. This includes an after hours, toll-free "Helpline".

The Facts About Foster Care Placement® was created by Fall River Foster Care Support Task Force (2008)

"Foster Parenting is a two-way street. As you take them by the hand, they will take you by the heart."