

## What Does It Take To Be A Foster Parent?

Successful foster parents have a secure family life of their own and the support of family and friends. They work well with staff at the Lincoln County Department of Social Services for the benefit of the child.

Foster parents can be single adults, married couples with children or “empty nesters.”

They have personal and financial stability, an ability to work with and respect the child’s natural family members, and the motivation to be a positive role model or mentor to children and youth.

## How Does One Become A Foster Parent?

You begin by calling the Lincoln County Department of Social Services at 715-536-6200.

The Foster Care Coordinator will answer your questions and send you an information/application packet.

All foster parents and their household members are screened through law enforcement records checks, health screens, reference checks and through a series of discussions with the agency staff.

Homes also need to meet basic safety and space requirements.



## What Ages of Foster Children Need Care The Most?

The answer is simple and not so simple... it’s ALL AGES!

What’s more important is what age ranges, genders and situations, you feel most comfortable with in your home.

We look for foster families of differing ethnic and cultural backgrounds, rural and city locations, and whose families come in every size and shape imaginable. This helps us to do the best job we can of matching the child’s needs regarding location and family situations with the best available foster home.

## What If I Work?

Many of our foster parents do work. Some families are able to foster on a full time basis in spite of working outside of the home. Other families may choose to foster only for emergency or short-term placements or provide respite care for children placed in other foster homes.

## Who Pays For The Child’s Medical and Other Expenses?

The agency reimburses foster parents for monthly expenses related to room, board and other items. If a child has special needs, additional supplements are available.

Foster children’s medical expenses are covered through their parent’s medical insurance or through Title XIX (Medical Assistance).

## Will I Have All The Information I Need About A Foster Child Before They Come To My Home?

Absolutely! The agency will share with you information we have available on the child, their habits and preferences and their family situation. You can then determine whether or not you’re comfortable accepting them into your household. In turn, foster parents must maintain a high degree of confidentiality and not share this very sensitive information outside of their own homes.





## What is Foster Care?

It's giving someone else's child a **safe place** during a difficult time. Every child needs security and **nurturing** in order to grow into a healthy adult.

Your job as a foster parent also carries a **special reward** – knowing that you're taking action to help someone who **needs you very much.**

## Who Do I Call For More Information?

Call the Lincoln County Department of Social Services at:

**715-536-6200**

We'll gladly answer your questions and give you the necessary information so your household can make the right decision on whether or not to become a foster family.

**LINCOLN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES... SUPPORTING KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Brenda Rasmussen, MSW  
Foster Care Coordinator  
Lincoln Co. Dept. of Social Services  
[Brenda.rasmussen@co.lincoln.wi.us](mailto:Brenda.rasmussen@co.lincoln.wi.us)  
(715)539-1328

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**Help a Child.  
Support a Family.  
Build a Future.  
Be a Foster Parent!**

