

# What is foster care?



Foster care is when people, who have been approved by the CASO as foster parents, provide a home for children or youth needing care for a period of a few days, weeks, months or possibly years.

## **Who are foster parents?**

Foster parents are people from any ethnic, cultural, racial or religious background who believe that every child deserves love and respect. Foster parents are individuals who are over the age of 18 and demonstrate an ability to parent. They have a stable and caring lifestyle and space in their home to support a child or youth's needs.

## **Why are children and youth in care?**

Children and youth come into care when they can't be cared for properly at home. This can result from parenting challenges such as:

- Inadequate resources and support;
- Mental illness that is not well-managed;
- Medical illness that impedes an ability to parent.

## **What kind of support do foster parents receive?**

- Reimbursement for the child or youth's living expenses;
- Training;
- 24-hour on-call telephone support;
- In-home support.

## **What steps do I need to take to become a foster parent?**

1. Call (613) 742-1620 ext. 1 or visit our website at [www.casott.on.ca](http://www.casott.on.ca).
2. Complete an application form.