

Foster Care & Adoptions Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who are the children you serve?

- We serve children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect, or having no viable caregiver. Children in foster care come from all races, backgrounds, and range in age from newborn to 21 years old.
- There is a great need for families who are able to serve multiple children in sibling sets.

2. What is Therapeutic Foster Care?

- Therapeutic Foster Care is a mental health service, for children and youth who may be in DSS custody but have higher levels of need for behavioral support.
- Other children in Therapeutic care may be voluntarily placed by their families needing additional support, or the service may be court ordered.

3. What are the criteria for becoming a foster parent?

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Pass a home safety inspection and fire safety inspection.
- Have a stable income.
- Pass extensive criminal and child abuse record checks.
- Be in good physical and mental health.
- Complete all pre-service training.

4. I am interested in adoption. What is the process for becoming an adoptive parent/family?

- We have a foster-to-adopt program, and complete adoptions through the child welfare system. This means that when children are not able to be reunited with their biological parents, it may be determined that adoption is the best permanent plan for that child. Whenever possible, it is ideal for children to be adopted by their foster parents, and we complete most of our adoptions this way.
- We license all our parents as foster parents. If a child in your home becomes eligible for adoption, our Adoptions Specialist will complete a Pre-Placement Assessment for your family and will support you in adopting the child in your home.
- Adoption fees are reimbursable through the state following the adoption finalization for children in foster care.

5. Are there children waiting to be adopted?

- Yes, there are more than 2,500 children in North Carolina who are waiting for adoptive families. Waiting children tend to be older, part of sibling groups, or have higher levels of need in some area.
- Crossnore requires that you foster a child in your home for at least 6 months prior to adopting that child, even if they are already available for adoption.

6. What are the steps for becoming a foster parent?

- Complete our program application (available online at www.crossnore.org) and meet with Foster Care staff for an interview.
- Following receipt of your application and your interview, staff will contact you to inform you with the status of your application.
- Complete our pre-service training.
- Complete licensing paperwork, background checks, home visits, and inspections.
- Licensing staff submits your foster home application to the state, who approves, denies, or requests additional information about each application.

7. What is involved in foster parent training?

- We provide 30 hours of foster parent training for licensure as required by the state. This is an excellent curriculum called TIPS-MAPP which is provided in 10 three-hour meetings.
- Ten additional hours of training are required for therapeutic licensure.
- Other required trainings include Safety Care (crisis prevention and de-escalation), Medication Administration, and CPR/First Aid, and all are included in the pre-service schedule.
- Contact your regional licensing specialist for additional details about the training and the schedule of upcoming classes.

8. Is there any cost to becoming a foster parent?

- There are no agency fees for becoming a foster parent.
- Some requirements do have associated fees, including background checks, fire inspection, driving records, and a physical exam. You may be required to make adjustments in your home for safety, which will be at your expense.

9. Why should I choose Crossnore Communities for Children?

- Our Foster Care and Adoptions staff bring years of experience in child welfare combined with a personalized, compassionate approach in our work with children, families, and foster families.
- You will be assigned a Foster Care Supervisor that will work extensively with your family and any child in your home. Our Foster Care Supervisors have manageable caseloads that allow them to be accessible to you on a regular basis.
- Crossnore provides a range of services available to children in our care, including outpatient therapy and psychiatric services as needed.

**For additional information,
please visit www.crossnore.org or contact:**

**MacKenzie Forrest
Foster Parent Recruitment & Training Coordinator
mforrest@crossnore.org or (336) 721-7600**