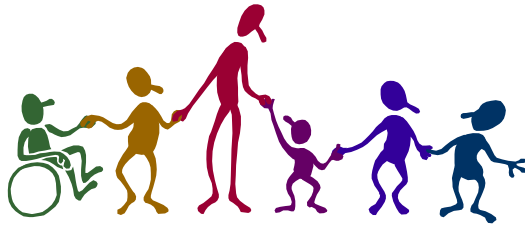


Non-Traditional Foster Care

E1



► Specialized Foster Care

Sometimes children enter foster care with very special needs requiring additional experience and training on the part of the foster parent to meet that child's particular needs.

These children are categorized as being:

- (1) mentally handicapped,
- (2) emotionally handicapped,
- (3) having severe behavioral disorders, or
- (4) having physical disabilities which require extensive medical attention.

As can be expected, it is generally more difficult to find placements for these children.

Foster parents are notified of upcoming training opportunities for specialized care, which is periodically made available free of charge to all Catawba County foster parents.



After successfully completing the training, foster parents then may qualify to receive additional compensation per month above the standard board rate for children needing specialized foster care.

The child must be diagnosed by a professional or team of professionals as having one or more of the previously mentioned special needs. The foster parent must have completed the specified training related to that particular diagnosis and be capable of handling specific special needs of a child.

This is a budgeted item and availability of funds are subject to the amount of money in the annual budget specified for Specialized Foster Care and the number of foster children who are receiving the funds.

If you are asked to take a special needs child and have the specialized training, you should talk to the social worker placing the child about requesting the specialized board rate.

Although it is our agency's desire to provide the funding to each foster child who is eligible, there is no guarantee that funds are available in every instance or will be available in the future. ☀