

► Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I have regular communication with a caseworker?

A: Set up a regular time to call (i.e., Monday at 9:30 a.m.). If you still have trouble, contact the caseworker's supervisor.

Q: What if the child has behaviors that are more difficult than expected and I don't feel capable of caring for him?

A: Talk with your licensing worker and the child's foster care worker and describe the child's behavior. Find out about training that can help you meet the needs of the child. Use the service plan (treatment plan) to outline agreed upon consequences for certain outbursts or behaviors. If these methods fail, follow agency procedures and/or request to move a child articles in this Handbook.

Q: When do I seek help beyond the caseworker?

A: See "Conflict Resolution" in this Handbook.

Q: Can I take a break from foster care?

A: Yes. Talk to your licensing worker to arrange respite care. Let your worker know of your intentions.

See "What to Do While Waiting for a Placement" in this Handbook.

Q: How long is the average child in foster care?

A: Last year the average length of stay in foster care was 10.2 months. However, a child may be in your home for a few weeks, months or even years depending on the needs of the child and his/her birth parents participation in their treatment program.

Q: What if they won't go to church with my family?

A: Arrange to have relief care during that time for the child. See "Foster Parent Responsibilities" in the Handbook.

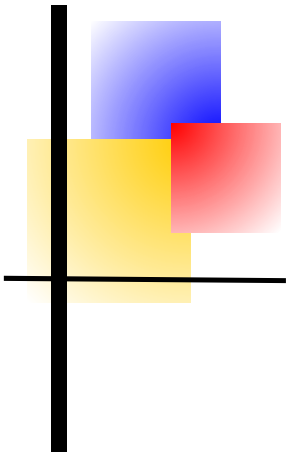
Q: Who can I use to baby-sit?

A: A responsible babysitter or another foster parent. If the stay will be overnight, you must use another licensed provider and you must inform your foster care worker and your licensing worker. Your licensing worker will assist you in finding care.

Q: Who can transport the child placed in my home?

A: The foster parent, caseworker or DSS staff. If you do not know the worker, always ask for identification.

Q: How do I get respite care?



Questions and Answers



Questions and Answers

B2

A: Call the placement workers, either Marge Manko or Sarah Shumate at Family Builders of Catawba Valley. Arrangements will be made with another resource family. It is your responsibility to pay the respite care parents for the time that they are caring for the child.

Q: Can both parents work?

A: Yes. If you foster school age children and their specific needs to not require more constant care.

Q: Can I adopt?

A: North Carolina state law gives foster parents preference when adopting a child that has been in their home for six months. Your foster care home study and paperwork can be used for the adoptive information. All applications will be reviewed by the adoption committee.

Q: Can I give our foster child a haircut?

A: No. Permission for haircuts must be obtained from the birth parents.

Q: What if I need to reach the worker after hours?

A: When accepting a placement, ask the worker how you can contact them after hours and ask for the emergency phone number.

Many of the decisions regarding a child's care are shared with the caseworker. For example, the foster parent may make the arrangements to enroll the child in school; however, the caseworker must sign the enrollment forms that require the signature of the legal guardian.

The same applies to other situations such as medical appointments. It is very important that foster parents keep the social worker informed on a regular basis regarding the child's problems, progress, and needs.

If you have any questions about who is responsible for a particular decision, check with your social worker. ☀