

Who are the children in need of foster care or adoption?

They are a diverse group of African-American, Latino, and white children, including preteens and teens.

Very few are three years old or younger. Some have disabilities and special needs. Many have brothers and sisters and need to be placed together.



To become a foster parent or adopt a child:

You do not need to be married, own your own home, earn a high income, or have previous parenting experience. You do need to be patient and loving and to provide a safe, nurturing home. You must be willing to learn about the needs of the child and receive training. Most important is being able to open your heart and your home to a child who may need special attention and guidance.

Call **1-800-345-KIDS (5437)** for information on becoming a foster parent or an adoptive parent. Or visit our website at ocfs.ny.gov.

To become a foster parent or an adoptive parent, contact your county department of social services or a local foster care/adoption agency. In New York City, contact the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) or call **212-676-WISH (9474)**.



New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Capital View Office Park
52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Visit our website at:
ocfs.ny.gov

For child care, foster care, and adoption information, call:
1-800-345-KIDS (5437)

To report child abuse and maltreatment, call:
1-800-342-3720

For information on the Abandoned Infant Protection Act, call:
1-866-505-SAFE (7233)

For information about services for the blind, call:
1-866-871-3000
1-866-871-6000 TDD/TTY

"... promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of our children, families, and communities..."

State of New York



Office of Children & Family Services

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services will make this material available in an appropriate format upon request.

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A child is waiting...



become a foster parent or adopt a child



Open your heart, Open your home.

Become a foster parent...

Open your heart and your home to a child during a time of crisis and change.

As a foster parent, you will guide and support your foster child every day. By your actions, you can help children and their families cope with the challenges that life brings.

Foster care gives children a temporary home when their parents cannot take care of them. In foster care, a child lives in a safe, stable home while the child's family focuses on getting the assistance they need. The goal is to return the child home safely. If that is not possible, a permanent home will be found, preferably with the foster parents.

As a foster parent, you will receive training and payment based on the child's needs. You can meet and get to know other foster parents, and agency staff will provide support.

The need for foster families is urgent. In New York State, there are thousands of children in foster care; each day another child needs a foster home. Contact your county department of social services or a local foster care agency, and learn about becoming a foster parent.



Adopt a child...

Open your heart and your home to a child who needs a permanent, loving home. As an adoptive parent, you will be giving a child another chance in life. Children who are adopted feel good about themselves by gaining the family life they deserve.

Adoption gives children a permanent home. Often foster parents choose to adopt their foster child when it is not possible for the child to return home safely. You do not need to be a foster parent to adopt a child.

As an adoptive parent, you may receive an adoption subsidy if the child is eligible. You can also receive special training in the child's needs, and agency staff will provide support.

The need for adoptive families is urgent. In New York State, hundreds of children are available for adoption and waiting for a home. You can view these children in the *Adoption Album* on our website, ocfs.ny.gov/adopt. Contact your county department of social services or a local adoption agency, and learn about adopting a child.



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ocfs.ny.gov**