

Foster Parenting
(Resource Parenting)
at
Luzerne County
Children and
Youth Services

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CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES**
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Resource Booklet pwp/c*

Mission Statement

Vision

Luzerne County Children and Youth Services is committed to excellence in meeting the changing and diverse needs of families and the community while protecting children and preserving families.

Mission

To assure that children are protected, live free from abuse and neglect and are given the opportunity to grow and develop to their fullest potential.

Value Statement

Families are supported in making decisions and developing skills to assure their child's safety, permanence and well-being.

- ◆ Cultural Competence
- ◆ Professionalism
- ◆ Partnership
- ◆ Trust
- ◆ Ethical Behavior

Children need...



Safety

One of Society's primary responsibilities to its children is safety. Abused and neglected children have a right to expect society's intervention and help, with priority given to protecting them from further abuse and neglect. Temporary separation of a child from the family, while not a long-term solution, may sometimes be necessary for the child's safety. Resource families provide a safe haven and a loving environment for children while their physical and emotional hurts are being treated.



Security

Children have a right to healthy, loving families of their own, and society has the responsibility to ensure that right whenever possible by offering a wide range of support and services to troubled parents, as well as children, while respecting the sanctity and integrity of the family unit.



Permanency

Children need safety and security on a long-term basis—a feeling of belonging, of being wanted and loved—a sense of permanency. Every effort must be made by parents, families, community agencies, even government to provide for that permanency. Ideally, a child's own home, a child's own parents and family, with the community's help if necessary will be the place of safety and security for that child. In those cases, in which the goal is unachievable, where service and support are not enough to allow children to live with their families in safety, then a permanent home must be guaranteed by other means—through extended or adoptive families. However it is achieved, permanency ensures that child's right to say, "Here is where I always belong, where I am safe, wanted and loved. I feel it, I believe it, I know it.."



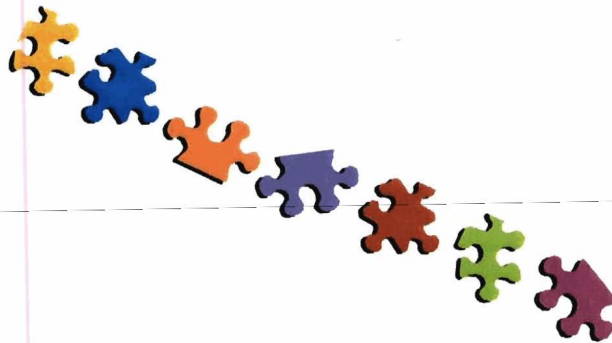
A Community Partnership

Since there is no one cause of child abuse and neglect, there is no one solution. There is no one person or agency solely responsible for its treatment or eradication. But, when a combination of people, programs and service comes together, the results can be highly rewarding.



How Can You Help

In partnership with Luzerne County Children and Youth Services and other committed people in your community, you can make a difference in a child's life. If you and your family are willing to share your home and your lives with children who must temporarily or permanently live away from their own families, then you may wish to consider becoming a resource and/or adoptive parent..





Respite Foster Care

Respite foster care is, at times, part of the treatment plan for some families. Respite foster care generally provides parents and children with a short term therapeutic separation, and assists both in dealing with everyday stresses and crises. Unlike many families who utilize extended family and friends for this purpose, some families are isolated, lack resources and need outside help. This service is designed not to exceed a thirty (30) day period.



Regular Foster Care

This is designed to provide a substitute family life experience for a child or children who need care for a temporary period of time. The child's biological family may be experiencing problems or may be dysfunctional. Children placed in regular foster care are between birth and 18 years of age. They require physical and emotional nurturance as well as safety and stability.



Foster/Adopt

Applicants to this program must accept their primary roles as those of foster parents. At the time a child is placed into a Foster/Adopt home, the long range goal is uncertain. In spite of this uncertainty, the agency must ensure as much stability as possible for the child. Plans must allow for the possibility of adoption at some point in the future. Therefore, it is in the child's best interest to be placed into a home in which he or she may be able to remain permanently, should the need arise.

How Can I Be A Resource Parent

The process of becoming a resource parent begins with talking it over with your family. Then, you may wish to discuss it with a member of the Children and Youth Staff who will be able to answer your questions and provide you with more information. Once you have decided to apply and have submitted the required forms, someone will visit you in your home to determine whether or not it meets foster care standards. You will then be required to attend a training program which is designed to familiarize you with the agency, its policies and regulations. These training sessions will give you opportunities to ask additional questions and to learn more about the children and families we serve.



Foster Care Programs (all types) Basic Requirements

The most important requirement for resource parents is that they have the ability and the desire to provide a safe, warm and loving environment for children in need. They must understand that foster care is meant to be temporary. Every effort will be made to return foster children to their homes and families.

There are also regulations which apply to resource homes and resource families and some are stated as follows.



Resource Parents

- ◆ May be single or married
- ◆ Must be a least 21 years of age
- ◆ Must have an income that is stable and sufficient to meet the family's needs
- ◆ Must submit to criminal history and child abuse clearance checks, and FBI clearances.
- ◆ Must agree to use no corporal punishment
- ◆ May not be active resource parents with any other agency



Resource Homes

- ◆ Must have adequate bathroom facilities, hot and cold running water, operable telephone, heating system, smoke detectors and a portable fire extinguisher.
- ◆ Must have suitable sleeping area for children and adequate space so that children of the opposite sex, who are more than five years old, do not have to share the same bedroom.
- ◆ Can not serve as a residence for more than six children (including foster children) who are under the age of 18.



Commonly Asked Questions Regarding Foster Care

1. ***Is there really a need for resource parents?***
YES. The agency always tries to place foster children in their home school district and in resource homes which are best suited to meet their particular needs. Attempts are always made to place siblings together in the same resource home.
2. ***Can I choose the age of the child that I would like?*** YES. Foster children range in age from infancy through adolescence. Resource families inform the agency of their desired age group and sex of the child.
3. ***May a single person become a resource parent?***
YES. There are no regulatory requirements governing marriage as a prerequisite for foster parenting.
4. ***What about adoption?*** If the primary goal of reunification cannot be achieved, then a permanent placement is pursued. Resource parents are given the option to adopt foster children when the agency seeks an alternative plan.
5. ***What kind of support does a resource family receive?*** The agency pays a daily rate for each foster child and pays for clothing, medical and dental needs. Resource families also can receive mileage reimbursement when transporting children for health care services. Every resource family has a worker assigned to them to provide support, direction and training.

**For more information on
Foster Care or Adoptions**

Call (570) 826-8718



**Website:
www.cysluzerne.org**



Notes:

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