

Training and support

After completing their application, a foster family participates in an initial orientation and ongoing training. Foster families receive regular visits and ongoing support from an assigned F&CS worker. We also provide formal and informal opportunities to network with other foster parents.

Foster parents receive a daily, non-taxable boarding rate for each child or youth that resides in their home. Other expenses – such as medical, dental, clothing, personal items, allowance, transportation and school related expenses – are also covered by F&CS.

How can you get involved?

If you are interested in becoming a foster family, or want to know more about fostering, please call us at 519-824-2410 or 1-800-265-8300 and ask to speak to a foster care worker. We can also arrange to have a translator available if you need one.



- ▶ **The mission of F&CS** is to work together with children, youth, their families and the community for the safety and well being of children and youth.
- ▶ **We envision** a supportive community where children and youth are safe, secure and nurtured in permanent loving families.
- ▶ **As an organization we value:** the right of children and youth to be safe and secure; the diversity of families; Positive Space that is inclusive; professional practice that begins with a strength-based approach; an open and transparent organization; innovation and creativity; social justice and the importance of advocacy; working together to create positive change in our community.
- ▶ **We are here** to help 24 hours a day, seven days a week with any child welfare concerns you may have. Call us during business hours to learn more about our service programs, adoption and foster care or volunteering.

www.fcsgw.org

519-824-2410 or **1-800-265-8300**



FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Welcome to our positive and anti-oppressive space, where every individual, regardless of age, is valued and respected whatever their culture, faith, ethnicity, race, ancestry, class, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity.

www.fcsgw.org/positivespace



FOSTER FAMILIES: a home for children and youth in care



WORKING WITH
FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
BROCHURE 5 IN A SERIES

Protecting children, building families

At Family & Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County (F&CS or the Children's Aid Society), we support families to ensure that children are protected from physical, emotional or sexual abuse, and neglect. We have a team of caring workers, foster families and volunteers. We offer client-focused programs and work with parents, youth and children toward one primary goal: ensuring the safety and well-being of children. We partner with other agencies in Guelph and Wellington County to strengthen support networks and deliver programs that help families in need.

What is a foster family?

Foster families provide homes for children and youth who are unable to live with their own families. Depending on the circumstances, children and youth may need foster care for a few days, a few weeks, a few months or longer.

Foster families go through a detailed and standardized application and screening process and are required to attend training prior to becoming an approved foster home. Once they are approved, they can count on ongoing support from an agency worker and will receive financial assistance when a child or youth is placed in their home.



A home for children and youth in care

Children may need foster family care for just a few days, a week, several months or possibly years. Foster parents and F&CS staff work together to support the healthy growth and development of each child or youth. Foster parents play an important role in the daily life of each foster child or youth, and the goal of everyone involved is for the child to return to their own family. If that cannot happen, foster parents provide support to their foster children as the agency searches for a permanent home.

Each foster child is unique

Foster children range in age from newborn to young adulthood. Many foster children are teenagers and many are brothers and sisters waiting to be placed in a foster home together. They come from many diverse backgrounds and have had many experiences, challenges and successes.

F&CS ensures that children and youth are placed in foster homes where their unique needs can be met.

Foster families

Foster families are:

- ▶ Caring families who can give children and youth stability, warmth, understanding, consistency and structure
- ▶ Families who want to reach out to children and youth in need from their community, or from their extended family
- ▶ Families who can meet the special needs of children and youth
- ▶ Families who will enjoy the challenges and rewards of foster family care
- ▶ Families who are willing to work with F&CS and the child's family with the goal of the child returning home or to another permanent home

Our foster parents can be:

- ▶ Experienced parents with grown children
- ▶ Parents who are raising their own children
- ▶ People who are not raising children
- ▶ Parents with training in childcare or related professions
- ▶ Parents with no special background in child care
- ▶ Grandparents
- ▶ Older couples
- ▶ Younger couples
- ▶ Single persons
- ▶ Same-sex couples
- ▶ Married couples
- ▶ Common-law couples