

SO WHAT IS Foster Care?

What is fostering?

Foster families provide safety, stability and shelter for children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Fostering is a temporary care arrangement and the end goal is to reunite foster children with their natural families, once they are assessed to be able to care for them.

Why are the children in foster care?

Children require foster care because (i) their parents are unable to care for them, at least for a period of time, due to physical/mental illness, or being in jail, or life circumstances; or (ii) they have been mistreated or abandoned by their parents.

We hope to provide loving and supportive homes for these children through foster care so that they can experience the love of a family.

How long do children stay with a foster family?

The length of foster care can range from a few months to years, and varies with the child and for different families. The ultimate goal of fostering is to reunite children with their parents whenever possible.

Who can become a foster parent?

Everyone can play a part in supporting children in foster care. If you are able to provide a stable and loving home, and nurture a child to reach his/her fullest potential, be prepared to make a difference in our vulnerable children's lives.



Eligibility criteria:

- ✓ Resident of Singapore
- ✓ At least 25 years old and married
- ✓ Medically fit to care for children
- ✓ Minimum monthly household income of S\$2,000 and a Per Capita Income of at least \$700. Retirees can apply to be assessed based on non-work sources of income and savings
- ✓ Attained secondary school education
- ✓ Experience caring for and living with children and/or exhibit strong parenting skills
- ✓ Willing to provide and ensure a child-safe home environment for the foster child
- ✓ Willing to work with MSF and other professionals for the child's best interest

How will foster parents be supported?

- + Support from Foster Care Officer
- + Monthly fostering allowance
- + Training
- + 24/7 Emergency hotline
- + Respite care
- + Medical subsidies
- + Infant care, child care and student care subsidies
- + Childcare leave for working foster parents

5 things to know before you foster:

Fostering brings with it many joys and challenges. To help you in your consideration, here are some things you should know:

1 The application process can be long-drawn. Be patient.

It is worthwhile, knowing that a foster family can restore a child's belief in Family. Be ready to spend time answering personal questions, filling up paperwork and preparing your home.

2 Your relatives or friends may question your decisions. Be ready with answers.

Some of them may have preconceived ideas that may include stereotypes and prejudices, or have concerns about your capacity to handle foster children. See this as a good opportunity to educate them about fostering.

3 Your relationship with family members may be tested. Be strong.

There will be adjustments and changes in schedules to cater to a new member joining the family. There may also be differing views when it comes to parenting. It is important for your spouse and family members to constantly communicate and be supportive even through the toughest days.

4 The parenting journey will be challenging. Be equipped.

Oftentimes, children coming into your care have undergone traumatic experiences that they struggle to express. Equipping yourself with knowledge and skills on handling trauma in children will better prepare you for the child who is coming into your home.

5 You will one day say goodbye and it won't be easy. Be mentally prepared.

There will come a day when the child will leave your home, hopefully to return to their birth family. No amount of preparation will make you fully ready, but the knowledge that you made a lasting difference in this child's life will make it slightly easier.



epworth
Foster Care

About Us

We are a fostering agency under Epworth Community Services, and also the first fostering agency appointed by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF).

Every child is important. They deserve the opportunity to be nurtured to their full potential in a loving, supportive family. We believe we can all play a part in developing the younger generation and building them for greater things.

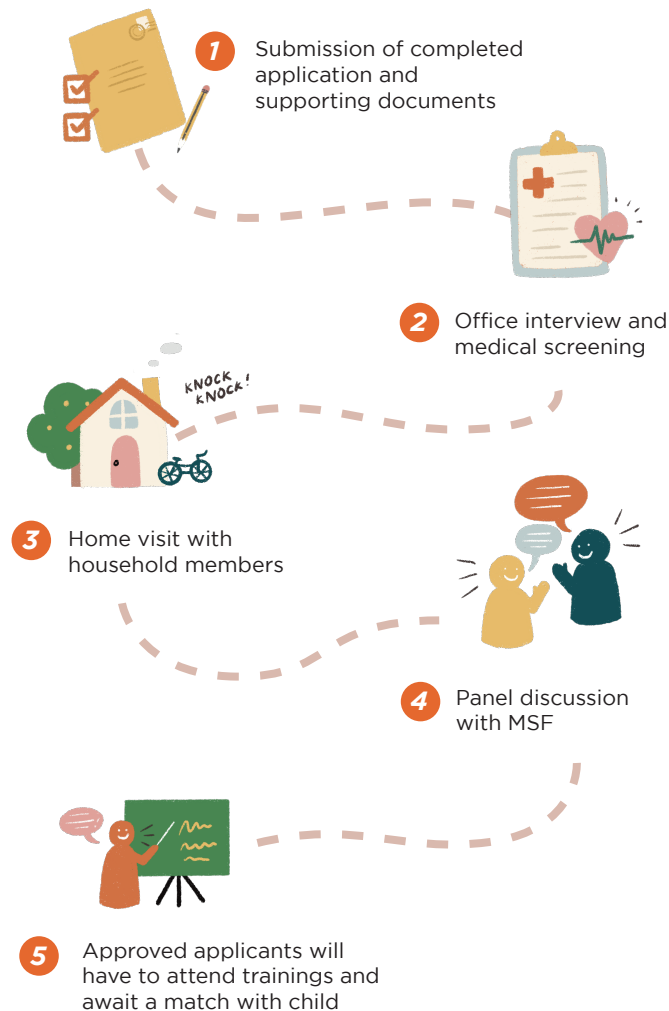
Together, we have the power to restore a child's belief in family, their significance, and their future. Instead of being weighed down by the past, we will focus on nurturing the present in order to change the future. We believe that each child is special, wanted, and destined for great things.

Get involved today!

- ☎ 9119 8711 (WhatsApp)
- ✉ fostercare@epworth.sg
- 🌐 <https://www.epworth.sg/programmes-services/epworth-foster-care/>

Are you ready to FOSTER?

The application and assessment process will take approximately 3 months to complete:



Yes! You may not be ready to foster a child right now, but there are other opportunities you can do to make the journey for a new foster family smoother. Here are a few ways you can open your heart to foster children:

VOLUNTEER:

Befriender*

There are many ways that you can help a child by becoming a trained befriender. You can:

- + Help with tuition
- + Take a child out for outings
- + Teach them positive values and be a good role model
- + Spend time with a child and give a listening ear
- + And so much more!

Commitment: At least 8 hours a month for 6 months minimum. This volunteering role is only open to individuals 21 years old and above.

Transport Minder*

If you have a car, you can help by ferrying children for trips. Some of these trips may include sending them to and from school, appointments or therapy sessions.

Commitment: Ad-hoc basis on weekdays and/or weekends. This volunteering role is only open to individuals 21 years old and above.

Event Volunteer

We need volunteers to help us for events. If you are unable to commit to a regular volunteering commitment, you can still volunteer at events like our roadshows to spread the word of fostering to members of the public and more.

Commitment: Ad-hoc basis. This volunteering role is only open to individuals 18 years old and above.

**Please note that some of our volunteering roles may require at least 2 months for processing and approval. Volunteers will also be required to attend training to equip them in caring and supporting foster children.*

PARTNER:

We welcome corporates to take action and collaborate with us through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. If your organisation would like to donate, sponsor our fostering events, or even plan fun-filled and memorable events for our foster children, our team is open to explore with you!

ADVOCATE:

Become a foster care advocate with us, and help us to reach out and raise fostering awareness in the community! Invite us to speak at your workplace, or organisations and groups you are connected with. You can also organise sharing sessions at the comfort of your home and invite us to speak to your friends and relatives.

DONATE:

Your donation will go a long way in supporting our everyday work to give our foster children a brighter future. If you wish to make a contribution, please reach out to us at: fostercare@epworth.sg.

WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

