

## What are the requirements to be a foster and/or adoptive parent?

- ◆ You must be 21 years of age
- ◆ You may be single, married or divorced
- ◆ You may or may not have other children in your home
- ◆ You may own or rent your home or apartment
- ◆ You must have sufficient income to meet the basic needs of your household
- ◆ Security clearances, fingerprints, medical exams and references are required

## How can you help?

As an agency, we are always searching for individuals who believe they can make a difference in the life of a child, either as a foster or adoptive parent.



## *Foster or Adopt a Child!*

**Our children need someone to make a difference in their young lives and that person could be you. Please call (440) 998-1811 with your questions.**

## How do I get started?

If you are interested in learning more about foster care and/or adoption, call Ashtabula County Children Services Board. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Children don't need perfect parents. They need someone who will love and care for them and provide a safe home for as long as needed.

If you think you may be that someone, please call Ashtabula County Children Services Board at 440- 998-1811 or 1-888-998-1811 and talk to a member of our foster care / Adoption team today!

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Ashtabula County  
Children services  
Board

*Families helping care for children!*



*Foster or Adopt a Child!*

Ashtabula County Children Services Board

3914 C Court

P.O. Box 1175

Ashtabula, Ohio 44005-1175

440- 998-1811 or 1-888-998-1811

[www.help-a-child.com](http://www.help-a-child.com)



### Our Mission

Our mission is to assure that children at risk of abuse or neglect are protected and nurtured within a family and with the support of our community.

### Are Foster and Adoptive Homes Needed?

- ◆ 25,000 Ohio children are living in foster families or in other out-of-home placements due to abuse, neglect or dependency
- ◆ Foster children vary in age, sex and race but share one universal need--someone to care for them until they can return home
- ◆ 3,200 Ohio children are waiting for the permanency an adoptive home will offer
- ◆ Children who tend to wait the longest for adoptive families include African American children, children over the age of ten, and children who are part of a sibling group



### Foster Families

- ◆ Foster care is intended to be temporary and consists of services provided to the child, the biological family and the substitute caregiver



- ◆ Reunification with the biological family is the primary goal of foster care
- ◆ Foster parents are trained and supported by the agency to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children until they are able to return to their families



### Adoptive Families

- ◆ If the court determines that reunification efforts have failed and the child cannot safely return home, then the biological parents' rights are permanently severed and an adoptive family will be needed
- ◆ An adoptive family may be a relative, a foster parent or another family approved and licensed for adoption
- ◆ Adoptive families are approved and licensed by either a public or private agency
- ◆ Adoptive parents make a life-long commitment to a child by legally becoming their parents

