

Application Procedures for Serving as Foster Parents

- 1 Applicants have to contact the Central Foster Care Unit of SWD for preliminary assessment and attend a briefing session on foster care service.
- 2 Applicants have to undergo criminal record check.
- 3 Applicants have to pass a medical examination and undergo a detailed and thorough home study assessment for their suitability to serve as foster parents. The assessment includes, but not limits to, the applicants' personality, interests, life experience, marital relationship, employment, financial condition, living environment, parenting attitude and capability, ability in making care arrangements to meet developmental needs of foster children; their family members' attitude towards participating in foster care service; and comments from two or more referees, etc. Applicants have to provide relevant supporting documents in the course of assessment.
- 4 Applicants have to attend a pre-service training workshop on foster care.
- 5 Upon passing the home study assessment, applicants have to fully co-operate with social workers in the matching process by upholding the best interests of children.



If you are interested to be foster parents, please contact intake worker of the Central Foster Care Unit of SWD or visit website of SWD (www.swd.gov.hk).



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Welcome to
Foster Care

Your Caring Family Reshapes a Child's Life



Foster Care

Foster Care provides residential family care for children under 18 years of age, whose parents cannot adequately take care of them due to special family circumstances, so that they can continue to enjoy family life until they can re-unite with their families, join an adoptive family or live independently.

Foster Care (Emergency) provides immediate and short-term residential family care for children under 18 years of age, whose parents cannot care for them because of emergency or crisis situations. The duration of care should not exceed six weeks.



You are cordially invited to become Foster Parents

Persons who are caring and eager to help are cordially invited to become foster parents and provide foster children with residential family care together with their family members on a voluntary basis. Interested persons who can only provide short-term/relief services are also welcome to apply.

To appreciate their participation in foster care, foster parents may, depending on the service type and condition of the foster child under their care, receive the following foster care allowance (all exempt from tax) as appropriate:

- Maintenance Grant for foster children to cover daily expenses of foster child;
- Incentive Payment for Foster Parents or Incentive Payment for Foster Parents (Emergency) to encourage participation of foster parents in voluntary foster care;
- Setting-up Grant (One-off) for foster child to cover extra expenses incurred when a foster child is newly admitted. It will be disbursed after the foster child has stayed in the foster family for one month [not applicable to Foster Care (Emergency) and short-term/relief services];
- Extra Incentive Payment for taking care of children diagnosed with special needs including mild intellectual disability, attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorder, specific learning difficulties, speech delay, developmental delay and psychological / psychiatric problem; or children under three years old or from three to under six years old.

Ideal Foster Parents should have:

- fondness for children, experience and ability in child care
- adequate care plans for children
- appropriate attitudes and skills in parenting and nurturing children¹
- primary education standard or above
- good health and stable emotion
- happy family life and stable living
- stable financial condition, such as having sufficient income, savings or disposable assets
- tidy, clean and safe living environment, including provision of window grilles or installation of secure window opening restricting devices², compliance with safety requirements for kitchen³, and installation of safety devices⁴ for balcony (if any), etc.
- adequate living space, including provision of separate beds and activity space for foster children
- consent from all family members to participate in foster care service
- willingness to accept investigation and guidance by social workers

[For enquiries about the above conditions, please call the Central Foster Care Unit of the Social Welfare Department (SWD)]

¹ The Central Foster Care Unit of SWD and non-governmental organisations operating foster care service will provide relevant training to foster parents regularly to enhance their knowledge and skills in child care and parenting.

² Window grilles (including grilles for louvers) must be installed such that any gap between window frames and grilles does not exceed 4 inches. If installation of window grilles is not permitted by the deed of mutual covenant of the building, secure window opening restricting devices must be installed such that the opening width of windows does not exceed 4 inches.

³ To prevent children from entering the kitchen, the kitchen door shall always be closed or safety gate be installed at the entrance of the kitchen.

⁴ The door to the balcony must be locked. A lockable opening restricting device or other safety devices may also be installed at the door such that the opening width of the door does not exceed 4 inches.

