

*Celebrating  
Over 30 Years  
of Care*

**Thank you for your interest in fostering through Adult and Child Center!**

You have taken the first step toward helping a child in need. Our foster families provide loving, supportive homes to children who have been removed from their birth homes due to abuse and neglect. The children we serve need people like you to care for them, give them a place to heal, and help them develop the healthy behaviors needed to be successful in life.

We are looking forward to meeting with you, and guiding you through the licensing process to become a foster parent.

The information enclosed details the licensing process, and gives you guidance on what you can expect in the coming weeks. You must complete and return the enclosed SAFE Questionnaire 1 and attend at least 1 training prior to a Licensing Specialist scheduling your initial home visit. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 317-893-0207 or email us at [FosterCare@AdultandChild.org](mailto:FosterCare@AdultandChild.org).



Tiffany took the time to  
**meet Foster**  
and is glad she did!  
Find out more about Foster at  
[www.IndyFosterCare.org](http://www.IndyFosterCare.org)

Sincerely,

Licensing Team

# Cookie & Warren's Story

## Could I be a foster mom?

This was the question Cookie Purvis asked, over 20 years ago. As a single parent and mother of 3 college-bound biological children, Cookie found herself in discussions with friends around becoming a foster parent. She hadn't really considered the idea because she assumed her divorced marital status, "already raised" bio children, and recent relocation to Indianapolis excluded her from being eligible to foster; all of which are myths.

Cookie's remarkable devotion to providing disadvantaged children with the feeling of family quickly drew her through foster parent training and she began providing short-term "emergency" foster care in 1990.

As Cookie's confidence grew, she began fostering children for longer periods of time and her journey eventually connected her with Adult and Child Center. Adult and Child's program focuses on supporting children with emotional challenges and while Cookie admits this presents a unique set of parenting challenges, she is also very proud of the success her foster children have found.



Cookie and Warren Purvis have fostered over 40 children. Each day, families like yours **help Foster** children in need.

[www.IndyFosterCare.org/foster-stories/](http://www.IndyFosterCare.org/foster-stories/)

"I encourage my children to figure out what they like to do most in life and go do it. So many times, these kids come to our family having never been encouraged or experienced love or affection. Before any child comes into our home, we discuss it as a family, but once they are here, we treat them like family regardless of color, gender, or disability. We are just a family that has no love boundaries."

Today, Cookie is married to Warren, and the couple continues caring for foster children. When asked about the challenges around caring for children who have emotional challenges, Warren referenced a t-shirt he owns which says "set no limits". This phrase is much more than a t-shirt for Warren, it is his philosophy (Warren is the proud father of 7 adopted teenage girls). He proactively includes each of their (foster) children in family games, activities, and home projects regardless of gender, ability, or project type.

Cookie and Warren have lost track of how many children they have fostered, but they estimate it to be well over 40 children; 7 of whom they have adopted (and they aren't finished). The Purvis family is truly a remarkable Hoosier family. Their ability to embrace and accept traumatized children into their family, without judgment, is encouraging.

*"Whether they have a mental disorder, or physical disorder, or they are just traumatized, all these kids want to feel is safe and loved." -- Cookie Purvis*

# Training

**Adult and Child Center provides training for new foster parents at no cost. This training prepares you to care for foster children, while meeting the state's 20 hours requirements.**

Adult and Child staff provides all training needed so you can become licensed:

Resource and Adoptive Parent Training: An overview of the Department of Child Services, Adult and Child as well as child abuse and neglect.

Therapeutic Orientation: An in depth review of the impact of trauma on a child, behavioral management tools for foster parents and sexual abuse.

First aid/CPR: American Heart Association approved training at no cost to you. First aid/CPR is offered every month while Resource and Adoptive Parent Training and Therapeutic Orientation alternate each month. Snacks and drinks are provided during the full-day trainings; please make plans for your noon meals



Our training helps you  
prepare for Foster  
[www.IndyFosterCare.org/  
be-a-foster-parent/training-  
for-new-foster-parents/](http://www.IndyFosterCare.org/be-a-foster-parent/training-for-new-foster-parents/)

## Training FAQs

### **Does my spouse/partner need to attend the pre-service training?**

**YES.** The State of Indiana regulations require both spouses/partners attend.

### **Do I need to attend all pre-service trainings to become licensed?**

**YES.** The State of Indiana stipulates that all newly licensed foster parents with a “therapeutic certificate” complete 20 hours of training. Missed classes may be made up during the next scheduled course. There are no “special” make-up classes offered.

### **I’m already certified in First Aid, CPR, and Universal Precautions.**

#### **Do I need to attend that training?**

**NO.** Please provide documentation showing your certification is current.

### **Am I able to begin the paperwork process prior to attending training?**

**NO.** You must attend at least one training and return the SAFE Questionnaire 1 (included in this packet) prior to receiving additional paperwork.

### **Register for Training**

by completing the enclosed registration card, or by emailing us at [FosterCare@AdultandChild.org](mailto:FosterCare@AdultandChild.org). Be sure to provide: the first and last names of those attending; the dates you will attend training; your contact information (mailing address, email address, and best phone number to reach you).



Adult & Child Health provides an array of physical and behavioral health services and has expertise in caring for children with a history of trauma and emotional difficulties. Children who are placed with us, in Therapeutic Foster Care, often require a little extra love and support. They look to people like you for healthy role modeling, a safe and happy home, and unconditional love.

## Why Foster?

Every day, foster parents provide safe & loving homes to children in need. When you foster a child you provide so much more than a place to live. You provide care and support so that they can heal, grow, & thrive.

## We Will Support You & Those You Care For



24/7 Access to emergency behavioral health services

On-going licensure and clinical supports



Competitive daily allowances

Paid respite days



Holiday & summer activities

## Requirements to Becoming a Foster Parent



Must be at least 25 years of age

Must be able to financially support yourself without public assistance



Parents may be single, divorced, married, unmarried, or partnered

Family members must pass stringent background checks



Parents must have reliable, insured transportation and valid driver's license

Your home must have sufficient bedroom space



You must successfully complete Foster Parent Training



We believe it is vital to have dedicated and diverse foster parents. We encourage and support foster parents regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender. We welcome all loving hearts & heroes.

**Have Questions About Fostering?  
Ready to Become a Hero?**

Contact a Licensing Specialist at **317.893.0207**



[www.IndyFosterCare.org](http://www.IndyFosterCare.org) | [www.adultandchild.org](http://www.adultandchild.org)

# Frequently Asked Questions

Many of the most commonly asked questions are answered below. We know that you will have many questions about becoming a foster parent, beyond what is shared here. We will address many of your questions during pre-service training. If you would like to talk with us before you attend training, please call us at 317-893-0207.

## What is Therapeutic Foster Care?

Therapeutic Foster Care, also known as “Treatment” foster care, is a level of foster care that provides care, nurturing, and services to children believed to have significant emotional and behavioral needs.

## Why do you need more foster families?

There are many reasons more families are needed. It is common for our current families to reach the state’s allowable “maximum” capacity, and not be able to take additional children. In addition, the more families available, the greater the likelihood we can place siblings together. And, the more diverse our foster family base is, the better we can match a child’s needs to a family. The more families we have dispersed throughout our services areas, the more likely we can place children in or near their own communities and avoid disrupting positive familiar connections for the child, like schools, peers, and positive role models.

## What is my role as a foster parent?

Foster parents provide a safe, nurturing, and usually temporary home for children who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. Foster parents care for children, with a goal to help them safely reunify with their families.

## Who can become a licensed foster parent?

Following are the minimum standards that a home must meet in order to become a licensed therapeutic foster home with Adult & Child: parents must be at least 25 years of age; parents must be able to financially support themselves without public assistance; all residents of the household, age 18 and older, must pass local, state, national criminal background checks, and all household members must have clear Child Protective Services checks.; parents must have reliable and insured transportation, as well as, a valid driver’s license; your home must have sufficient bedroom space.

We license a wide variety of foster parents because we believe this diversity will provide the best placements for kids. We encourage and support foster parents regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender.



Want to know more?  
**ask Foster**  
staff and parents to tell  
you about fostering.  
Call us today, or find  
their stories at  
[www.IndyFosterCare.org/  
foster-stories](http://www.IndyFosterCare.org/foster-stories)

### **How much does it cost to become a licensed foster parent?**

Adult and Child Center covers the majority of the costs associated with licensing (approximately \$1,000 for training, background checks, and the home study, and other investments for a typical two-parent family). Potential foster parents are responsible for the cost of the health screening for all household members. There may also be a minimal charge for local background checks.

### **How long does it take to become a licensed foster parent?**

The licensing process typically take 2-3 months. It is driven by your engagement in the process.

### **What should I expect after my license is approved?**

Our goal is to match your home to the child whose needs and profile are the best fit. We use a specialized matching process when placing foster children. Recognizing that every child is unique, and has unique needs, we work to match the child with staff and families who are best prepared to meet those needs.

### **Could you describe the “typical” foster child?**

Children in foster care are as diverse and unique as the children living in your community. They are individuals of varying likes, dislikes, ethnic backgrounds, talents, interests, intellect, and needs. The common thread that links children in foster care is their exposure to trauma which usually leads to psychological, emotional, and/or behavioral challenges. Their response to abuse and/or neglect is a shift in their brain’s perception to survive in a hazardous world. Children who have shifted into this “survival” mode will take a great deal of effort and nurturing to help them feel safe and secure.

### **I already have kids. How will fostering impact them?**

Children are impacted in very different ways, depending on the age of your child, sensitivity to change, resilience, capacity to share, gender, and even their own special needs. Some children are very receptive to new children coming into your home and others may need time to adjust to the impact that adding another child creates. This sometimes disrupts the birth-order (age sequence or rank) of your own children, when a foster child enters the family. Children who are excited to be a foster family during the application process may not be fully prepared for the reality of sharing their space, belongings, and family (parents, siblings, and extended family). They may need time to adapt to their new foster sibling, just as an “only child” would need to learn their role as “the oldest” when a newborn sibling arrives. With time, they will develop bonded relationships that are similar to that of step-siblings (including normal feelings of care, concern, jealousy, anger, joy, and sibling defense). It is imperative that your children have a voice in the decision to be a foster family. They should also be included in selecting the matching criteria of children you would like to provide care for (such as age range, gender, etc.).

### **What supports does Adult and Child Center provide?**

Adult and Child Center provides both financial and sustaining supports. Foster families receive a competitive daily allowance; paid respite days; mileage reimbursement; 24/7 access to emergency behavioral health services; support to maintain their license; and more.

Learn more about how we support foster families online at [www.IndyFosterCare.org](http://www.IndyFosterCare.org).