



"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans..." James 1:27

# 6 Steps to Becoming a Foster Parent

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*Or Respite Care Provider*

## Step 1: Getting Started

Every journey starts when you take the first steps. Here are the first steps that we have found to be the most important in considering and starting to become a foster parent.

- Pray
- Do some self-assessment
- Find accurate information, do some research
- Connect with other foster families, support groups and agencies.

## Step 2: Evaluating

Evaluate and choose a local foster agency or choose to go directly through CPS/El Dorado County. Don't be afraid to ask all of your questions when you are evaluating agencies and CPS. Some questions could include, how many years have you been working as a foster agency? How many children did you place last year? What is your assessment and training process? Do you have any unique agency requirements? What services do you offer for foster children and foster families? Characteristics to look for are integrity, credibility and personal fit.

## Step 3: Training

After you have chosen your avenue of becoming a foster parent, you will need to go to some training classes. These classes are important in preparing you for parenting a child you has experienced trauma.

## Step 4: Paperwork & Home Study

Paperwork includes documents such as: applications, DMV records, fingerprinting, background check, proof of insurance, etc. The Home Study is a document written by a social worker about your family and your home. The purpose of the Home Study is to make sure your home meets state requirements for foster families and to get to know your family better to ensure you are a good fit for a foster child. Ask your agency or CPS what their Home Study process is like. Most are helpful and will walk you through every step of the way.

## Step 5: Matching

When your agency thinks that your family is a good match for a certain child, they will contact you with all of the information they have about the child. You then are able to choose if you would like to move forward to learn more and to have the child placed in your home.

## Step 6: Connect

Connect with other foster parents and with the support offered to foster families in our community. Join our 1:27 Family Support Group. Utilize the 1:27 Wrap-Around ministries Care Coaches who will walk alongside you during your foster parent journey and provide you with encouragement and support. Care Coaches can also connect you to the 1:27 Support Network that offers items and services to foster and adoptive families. Find out more information about what 1:27 and the community offers at

[www.127online.org](http://www.127online.org)