

You Can Make A Difference One Child At A Time

Every day, more and more children come to the attention of Erie County Children Services because of abuse, neglect, and dependency. Many of these children are placed in foster care or are waiting to be adopted. They are boys and girls of all ages....siblings who want to be together....children with special and unique needs. The agency strives to preserve families by providing and arranging services to assist families in building a safe and nurturing family environment. It is critical there are enough foster and foster to adopt families to both temporarily and permanently care for children in order for them to remain in their own communities and schools.

Mission Statement:

The Mission of Erie County Children Services Unit is to serve as a first responder to reported allegations of child abuse & neglect, to investigate such reports in a timely manner and to provide appropriate protective services to children who are found to be abused and neglected in accordance with legal mandates.

Who To Contact If You Are Interested In Foster Care Or Adoption

Please call

Erie County Department of Job and Family Services

221 West Parish Street
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

419-626-6781 Ext.6500

*Ask to speak with a member of the foster
care and adoption team*

You can also contact the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**

for additional information at

614-466-9274

or visit the Adopt OHIO web page at
www.state.oh.us/odjfs/oapl

You Can Make a Difference in the Life of a Child



Be a Foster and Adopt Parent

You Can Make a Difference in the Life of a Child



Be a Foster and Adopt Parent

Erie County Department of Job and Family Services

221 West Parish Street
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

419-626-6781

Foster Care

Foster care is temporary care provided to children which can last from over night to more long term. Foster homes are resources and supports for children who are removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or identified as being dependent and their parents are not able to safely care for them. If no relative or kinship care giver is available or identified, children are placed with foster parents on a temporary basis until reunification or permanency can be achieved. Foster parents provide a loving, secure, caring and safe place for children to live. Children do best when they can stay in their own school, keep their friends, and see birth parents often and priority is placed on keeping children in their own neighborhoods and schools. Foster parents are part of a team including the child's biological parents, social workers, therapists, juvenile court, and additional resources working with the children and birth family. Foster Parents impact the lives of children placed in their home by being a positive role model and many times assist both the child and parent in the reunification process by providing additional support.

Adoption

Adoption is a life commitment to a child or children who are unable to return to their biological families. Keeping children with their biological families is always the first goal but sometimes reunification with the child's birth family is not possible or not in the best interest of the child. Children who are in need of their forever families require the same commitment of love, patience and security as your own birth children need and deserve. When a child is adopted the adoptive parents become legally and financially responsible for the child through a legal process just as if the child was born into the family. Children who may become available for adoption may be eligible for subsidies or medical coverage. Children of all ages and backgrounds are in need of permanent, safe, stable and loving homes and the adoption process provides this for children.

Qualifications

Many of the qualifications are the same for foster care and adoption. To become a foster or adoptive parent you can/must be:

- ✓ Married, single, widowed, or divorced
- ✓ With or without children of your own.
- ✓ You must be at least 18 years old to adopt and at least 21 years to foster.
- ✓ A renter or home owner.
- ✓ Employed or a stay at home parent as long as your income is adequate to meet your household needs.
- ✓ You will receive free training to help you parent children who have been separated from their birth families.
- ✓ You and a social worker will determine your parenting strengths during a home study.
- ✓ You will receive financial assistance to help meet the child's daily living needs for foster care. There are adoption subsidies which may be available for special needs of a child you are adopting.
- ✓ You will receive continuous support from your foster and adoption team.