

## Foster Home Licensing Requirements

ALL APPLICANTS MUST QUALIFY: (1) PERSONALLY (2) HOME ITSELF

### Prelicensing Requirements:

1. Application
2. Over age 21
3. High School Diploma or GED, or Show your ability to read and write.
4. Participate in and complete TIPS/MAPP (Trauma Informed Partnering for Safety/Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) Orientation and Training - **30 Hours** *\*\*Any household member age 21 or older who may provide care or supervision to children placed in the home must complete this training as well (Can miss up to two meetings.)*
5. Consent to and pass a NC Central Registry and Civil/Criminal Records Check (includes previous Child Protective Service involvement, and criminal charges and convictions - drugs, driving history, any violent crimes, domestic violence, etc.). Fingerprints are checked by SBI & FBI for clearance. The NC Public Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry, Nurse Aid Registry, as well as the Responsible Individuals List will also be checked as part of this process. Any adult in the home age eighteen and older must complete these records checks.
6. Must be a legal citizen of the United States; through birth or naturalized, or be able to verify lawful immigration status (Green Card).
7. Agree not to use corporal punishment with foster/adoptive children.
8. CPR/First Aid and Medication Administration (Blood borne Pathogens) must also be completed prior to any children being placed in the home.
9. Psychological evaluation if requested by DSS

### Additional Requirements when Actual Licensing Process Begins:

10. Health- Each member of the family must have a physical exam. The adults in the home may be required to complete a TB skin test. A medical history is also completed by the family. Family health is also evidenced by no indication of domestic violence, substance abuse or illegal drug use.
11. Fire/Safety Inspection- During the licensing process the home will be inspected by a Fire Marshal/Inspector to ensure the safety of the home. There may be a \$25.00 charge for the home inspection.
12. Environmental Safety Checklist of the home is completed by the licensing social worker (to include sanitation of the home, fire arm storage, medication storage, vaccination of pets, water hazards, etc.).
13. References- This agency requires five references with at least three being non-familial persons.
14. A family history/summary will be completed with the social worker at in-home visits and office visits with the family to include the family's strengths and needs.
15. Financial statements and W-2's- to verify the family's ability to provide for themselves and an additional household member.
16. Capacity- There can be no more than five children in the home. This includes birth, foster, and adopted children; in-home daycare; children kept for babysitting, or any other children in the home under the age of eighteen.

**Requirements for Re-licensing (every two years):**

1. Biennial review (any changes in the home, placement history, social worker's summary of previous licensing experiences, etc.)
2. Medical Exams of all family members
3. Updated medical histories
4. Fire Safety Inspection
5. Environmental Checklist/Inspection of the home by social worker
6. Civil/Criminal records check
7. Central Registry check
8. Documentation of training hours - 10 hours per year of in-service training hours.
9. Updated policies to be reviewed and signed (confidentiality, corporal punishment, Client's Rights, Agency/Foster Parent Agreement)
10. CPR /FA, Medication Administration, and Blood Borne Pathogens.

**RANDOLPH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**P. O. BOX 3239**  
**1512 N. FAYETTEVILLE ST.**  
**ASHEBORO, NC 27204-3239**

**APPLICATION TO FOSTER/ADOPT CHILDREN**

Foster Care: \_\_\_\_\_ Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_ Both: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent 1 (or Single Parent Applicant) Full Name

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent 2 Full Name (including maiden)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions to your home:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT 1**

**PARENT 2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle)

SS# \_\_\_\_\_

SS# \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage Date \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage Date \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Race \_\_\_\_\_

Race \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Marriages (Dates)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Previous Marriages (Dates)  
\_\_\_\_\_

How Marriages Terminated (Dates & Places)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How Marriages Terminated (Dates & Places)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Education: Circle Years Completed  
Elementary - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
High School - 9 10 11 12  
College - 1 2 3 4

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Elementary - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
High School - 9 10 11 12  
College - 1 2 3 4

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Employment \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Employment \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDREN**

Name                      Birthdate                      School/Occupation                      Address

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD**

Name                      Birthdate                      Relation to Family                      Occupation

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live in: House \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Home \_\_\_\_\_

# of Bedrooms: \_\_\_\_\_ Will child share a room? \_\_\_\_\_

With whom? \_\_\_\_\_

What school will child attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you fostered/adopted children before? \_\_\_\_\_ From what agency? \_\_\_\_\_

Give dates: \_\_\_\_\_ From child's parents? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied for a child before? \_\_\_\_\_ From what agency? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Name, Address, & Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name, Address, & Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERENCES**

(Please give three references who have known you well over a period of years 3 must be non-familial)

Name, Address, & Phone #

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

We wish to apply for \_\_\_\_\_

(Number of children, ages, and sex)

Have you known any foster parents or foster children? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If so, who? \_\_\_\_\_

What encouraged you to pursue the ideal of becoming a foster/adoptive parent?

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How would you discipline a foster/adoptive child who misbehaves?

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

<u>Gross Yearly Income</u>	<u>Source</u>
Husband _____	_____
Wife _____	_____
Other income _____	_____

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Location</u>
Savings _____	_____
Investments _____	_____

Savings \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Savings \_\_\_\_\_

Stocks, bonds, securities or cash value in insurance \_\_\_\_\_

**CRIMINAL/DSS HISTORY**

Have you ever been arrested and/or convicted of a crime? If so, please explain:

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Do you have any pending charges? Are you on active probation? If so, please explain:

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Has the Department of Social Services ever been involved with your family? If so, please explain:

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Please check appropriate responses.

Children acceptable: (1) I (we) can accept some physical and/or mental handicaps in a child.

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

(2) The handicapping conditions I (we) cannot accept are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(3) I (we) want to be consulted when individual children with handicaps, either remedial or irremedial, become available for adoption so that decision is based on each particular child.

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

(4) I (we) can accept a child between the ages of \_\_\_\_\_ (lowest) to \_\_\_\_\_ (highest) years.

Applicant Signature

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Signed By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date

Applicant Signature

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Signed By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\*This form is merely a statement of intention and can be withdrawn by the applicants at any time.

*In accordance with the Multi Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA-IEP), this agency will not deny or delay the opportunity of any person to foster or adopt based upon race, color, or national origin.*

## **Foster Care Information Sheet**

### **The Primary Goal of Foster Care is...**

The primary goal of foster care is to provide a safe, temporary place for children to live until they can be in a permanent placement, whether that be with their birth parent, relatives or a pre-adoptive family. Children of any age from birth to eighteen years of age may come into care.

### **Children come into care for a variety of reasons...**

Children may come into care through involvement with Child Protective Services due to allegations of abuse, neglect, and/or dependency. Their parents may also lack the parenting skills necessary to nurture and discipline them properly.

Children may also come into care through court order and involvement with the Office of Juvenile Justice.

Each child comes into care with their own experiences, fears, and behaviors. Some children may require on-going therapy or specialized medical care. Whatever the reason a child is placed out of their own home with a foster family, if the foster parents are responsive, consistent, understanding and knowledgeable about the needs of the child, most children will make an easier transition.

**All information about the child's background must be regarded as confidential by the foster parents. Disclosures can be damaging to the child and are legally prohibited by Federal law.**

## **Questions Often Asked by Prospective Foster Parents and Answers.**

### **1. What kind of people are foster parents?**

Foster parents are regular people. They may be younger or older; have young children, adult children, or no biological children. They may own their own home or rent. They are single, married, divorced and widowed. They are two income homes, single income homes, students and retirees. All kinds of people are foster parents. They are not "perfect" and they don't have all of the answers.

### **2. May we use daycare for foster children while we are at work?**

Yes. Selection of child daycare must be discussed with social worker and approved by the agency prior to placing the child in daycare. The agency pays the cost of daycare. (The State has a set rate that will be paid for daycare. This rate covers most daycare's fees. However, if you choose a daycare whose fees are above the State rate, then you are responsible for the difference.)

### **3. Do the children receive financial assistance while in foster care?**

Foster children receive a monthly room and board stipend based on the age of the child. This payment is to provide for the child's needs from clothing, over the counter medications, school supplies, and any other personal needs.

Based on the age of the child, current room and board stipend rates are approved by the State and County Commissioners as follows:

0 to 5 years: \$475 room, board, clothing, and personal needs

6 to 12 years: \$581 room, board, clothing, allowance, and personal needs

13 to 18 years: \$634 room, board, clothing, allowance, and personal needs

Children who have been diagnosed as seriously mentally handicapped, emotionally disturbed, or physically handicapped may receive increased board payments of up to \$200 per month. Foster parents must have had specialized training for parenting such children if such a child is placed with them.

### **4. Can a foster parent adopt a foster child?**

Most children adopted through the agency are adopted by the foster family that has cared for them since their initial placement in foster care.

### **5. Do birth parents know where the child is? Are birth parents allowed to visit?**

Many times, foster parents and birth parents meet through shared parenting. Shared Parenting is required by the State and encouraged by the Department when it is appropriate. The children usually tell their parents where they are living. Visits are arranged through the social worker and may be held at a mutually agreeable place.

### **6. Can a foster child share a room or a bed with another child?**

A foster child can share a room under these situations:

1. No child 2 years of age or older shall share a bedroom with an adult except under special circumstances and with prior approval from DSS.
2. Each child shall have his or her own bed; there are no exceptions.
3. A child under six shall not share a room with a child over twelve, unless a sibling set is being placed together.

Children of the opposite sex shall not share a bedroom unless they are under the age of five.

## **7. How binding is the age and sex of children specified by foster parents?**

The agency will abide by your preferences as much as possible. Your license will be for children of either sex from birth to 21 years. In an emergency situation, you may be called for placement for children other than your identified preferences.

## **8. Who pays medical expenses?**

The Department of Social Services is responsible for all medical bills. Most children are covered by the Medicaid program. Foster parents should use the room and board stipend to provide any over the counter medications needed by the child. It is the foster parent's responsibility to locate appropriate medical providers who accept Medicaid - with the social worker's assistance.

## **9. Is training required once you are a licensed foster parent?**

Yes, each foster parent is required to complete ten training hours a year. Training can be completed in a variety of ways. Examples of trainings are reading resources, videos, online trainings and the training sessions provided here at the agency. The agency provides a minimum of ten, one-hour training sessions at the agency per year. The agency also holds additional supplemental trainings throughout the year, consisting of 2-6 hours each.

## **10. Who is responsible for enrolling a child in school, handling school problems, and attending activities, such as PTA, teacher conferences, etc.?**

Foster parents. If unusual problems arise, consult the child's social worker.

## **Things for you to think about...**

### **◆ Do you have a strong support system of family and friends?**

Sometimes you may need to call on them, not only for the child but for yourself.

### **◆ Are you a patient person?**

Are you willing to continually give and very rarely get anything in return, except for the knowledge that you are helping a family?

### **◆ Many people enter into foster care thinking that they are rescuing a poor child from an abusive parent.**

These foster parents believe that the child will be grateful and relieved to be out of their home situation. This is rarely the case. The child's situation is "normal" to him/her. Be prepared for the child to be anything but happy in your home. In other words, examine your expectations.

◆ **Are you willing to have social workers and other people from the community in your home?**

Can you work in partnership with a team of professionals to help the child either get back home or to another permanent placement, such as adoption? This requires excellent communication skills on your part and a commitment to follow the plan set forth by the social worker and courts for the child and family.

◆ **If you have children of your own, how do they feel about doing foster care?**

Your children will have to share their home, room, toys, and most importantly their parents with another child. They sacrifice a lot in becoming part of a foster family.

◆ **What type of children can you parent at this time?**

Consider the ages and gender of a child. You will also be given choices on what behaviors and special needs you feel that you can and cannot parent at this time. Be aware that the agency is not always aware of a child's behavior at the time of their placement in foster care. You might be the first to find out.

◆ **Are you prepared to give of your own time?**

Foster children will have medical and dental appointments and therapy that you will be asked to take them to. You may also be asked to transport the children to and from visits. You will be responsible for demonstrating positive parenting skills not only to the child, but in some situations through shared parenting with the birth parents.

# ADOPTION GUIDELINES

## RANDOLPH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Randolph County Department of Social Services regards Adoption Services as an integral part of the continuum of family and children's services. The primary purpose of adoption is to help a child to become part of a new family.

The reasons that children become free for adoption are:

- that the birth parents choose to release their child for adoption
- that the birth parents are incapable of performing continued parental responsibilities and the Court has terminated their parental rights
- that the birth parents are unwilling to provide a safe and nurturing home and/or perform continuing parental duties and the Court has terminated their parental rights
- the death or continued absence of both parents

A second purpose of adoption is to provide home assessment services to county citizens who want to adopt a child or children.

A third purpose of adoption services is to fulfill the Agency's statutory requirements to supervise the adoptions of children by relatives, including stepparents, and to file the required Court forms in a timely manner.

### **Children available for adoption:**

The Randolph County Department of Social Services seldom has infants available for adoption; instead, we have children who have been removed from their birth families because of abuse, neglect, or dependency and whose parents are unable or unwilling to make the basic changes necessary to regain custody of the child/children. These children all have suffered some degree of trauma in their families of origin and the subsequent separation from their families causes more trauma, even though it may not be evident until some years later.

Children who have "special needs" are eligible for special cash payments, Medicaid coverage, and limited assistance in payments to medical and/or therapeutic vendors. "Special needs" children are those:

- who are older children (above age 6) or are members of sibling groups who need to be placed together.
- minority or mixed race children of any age.
- children with diagnosable physical and/or emotional problems.
- children who, because of birth family dynamics prior to placement, can be reasonably expected to develop emotional problems or learning disabilities later in childhood.

### **Expectations of adoptive applicants:**

- North Carolina law specifies that adoptive applicants must be at least age 21. There is no upper age limit; applicants will be considered on an individual basis.
- Married couples or single persons have the right to be adoptive parents; however, when persons live together but are unmarried, only one of the adults can be the legal adoptive parent.
- Applicants should have sufficient income to support a child. Financial assistance is available for families who adopt "special needs" children. W-2 & check stubs must be provided, along with a financial statement form.
- Records checks completed, FBI/SBI fingerprint clearance, Central Registry & local criminal checks.
- Five references will be checked.
- Every adoptive applicant must have a current physical examination and it must be updated every 12 months until a child is placed with them; applicants must be able to demonstrate the physical and mental ability to parent a child.
- Realizing that families in which both parents work is the national norm, we encourage families to use quality day care for children placed for adoption.
- Complete TIPS/MAPP training class (30 hrs.).

### **Expectations of the Agency:**

- Childless couples whose reason for adoption is infertility will be given priority for the placement of an infant or young child.
- We will provide the adoptive family with all non-identifying and medical information available.
- All applicants who have completed the home assessment process will be presented to the Agency Adoption Committee for approval or denial. Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision of the Adoption Committee. If denied, applicants will be told the reasons for denial and what steps to take, if possible, to gain approval.
- All approved applicants will be given a written copy of their adoptive assessment.
- Adoptive applicant inquiries will be handled in a timely manner.
- A list of private adoption/child placing agencies is available upon request to any person inquiring about adoption choices or TIPS/MAPP class options.

### **Post Adoption Services**

- Information and referrals will be provided to families and children seeking help with family behavioral problems and adoption issues.
- We will assist adoptees and adoptive families in their searches for birth families as we are permitted by N.C. law and policy.
- DSS can act as a Confidential Intermediary in helping search for birth parents or birth children who have been adopted.

**In accordance with the Multi Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA-IEP), this agency will not deny or delay the opportunity of any person to foster or adopt based upon race, color, or national origin.**

*Randolph County*  
*Department of Social Services*

BETH WHITLEY DUNCAN  
DIRECTOR

P.O. BOX 3239  
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SAMUEL R. FRAZIER, CHAIRMAN  
SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

## **THE MODEL APPROACH TO PARTNERSHIPS IN PARENTING PROGRAM**

The MAPP Program is a training program for foster/adopt families. It is a preparation and mutual selection process including discussion of foster care, shared parenting, adoption, and permanency planning; outline and discussion of the roles, responsibilities, and rewards of foster parenting.

MAPP provides an overview of a foster care experience from the perspectives of clients (children and parents), foster parents, and caseworkers. It demonstrates the stresses and losses which can lead to foster care placement; what happens if a foster home placement does not work out; how foster families and birth families can work together for the benefit of the child; how families are reunited; how children are moved into adoption; and how some youth in foster care move into independent living.

MAPP training explores the impact of separation on the growth and development of children, and the impact of foster care on the feelings and behaviors of children and parents. It examines personal losses (death, divorce, infertility, children leaving home) and how difficult life experiences affect success as foster parents. It emphasizes the partnership roles of foster parents and social workers in turning separation losses into gains.

MAPP training explores the subject of attachment and child development. It focuses on how attachments are formed and the special needs of children in foster care (especially in the areas of building self-concept and appropriate behavior). It discusses the partnership roles of foster parents and social workers in helping form new attachments.

The MAPP training program discusses techniques for managing behavior, with an emphasis on alternatives to physical punishment. Topics include special issues in discipline for children who have been physically or sexually abused or neglected. Techniques discussed include being a "behavior detective," reinforcement, time out, mutual problem solving, structuring and setting limits, negotiating and contracting. It emphasizes the partnership between foster parents and social workers.

MAPP training examines the importance of the birth family to the child in foster care; how to support positive feelings/contacts between children and their previous families. It considers special issues like how to help children understand their backgrounds, what happens when there is no contact between children and their families, and how to support feelings/contacts between children and previous foster families, group home friends, or previous adoptive families through shared parenting, life books and a variety of other ways.

During MAPP training, gains and losses are explored. We discuss family reunification as the primary case planning goal as well as alternatives like foster care, adoption, and independent living. The training examines disruption and its impact on children, families, and agency staff. It also focuses on the partnership role of caseworkers and foster parents in stabilizing placements.

Participants learn about separation and attachment, how to build and maintain relationships with children, and how to support them in working out the feelings they have for the important people in their lives. They devote much time to the role of foster parents and the special way they will improve the lives of many children and families.

## MAPP Training Resources

1. AGAPE (Private class- Fee involved) ♥  
Greensboro (336) 855-7107
2. American Children's Home  
Lexington (336) 357-7126
3. Another Choice ♥  
Charlotte (704) 394-1124
4. Baptist Children's Home of NC, Inc.  
Thomasville (336) 474-1200
5. Bringing It All Back Home Study Center  
Professional Parenting Satellite Office  
Winston Salem (336) 768-4136
6. Carolina Adoption Service ♥  
Greensboro (336) 275-9660
7. Caring Family Network  
Knightdale (949) 484-9937
8. Children's Home Society of NC ♥  
Greensboro (336) 274-1538
9. Community Support Services  
(336) 691-1817
10. Davidson County DSS  
Thomasville/Lexington (336) 242-2579
11. Elon Homes for Children, Inc.  
Elon (336) 584-0091
12. Family Services ♥  
Winston Salem (336) 722-8173
13. Guilford County DSS  
Greensboro (336) 641-3071  
High Point (336) 845-7788
14. Kid's Peace  
Aberdeen (910) 944-2102, Toll free 1-866-311- 7654
15. Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas  
Greensboro (336) 275-7295
16. Methodist Home for Children ♥  
Raleigh, Toll free 1-888-305-4321
17. Montgomery County DSS  
Troy (910) 576-6531
18. Moore County DSS  
Carthage (910) 357-2436
19. Nazareth Children's Home  
Rockwell (704) 279-5556
20. NC Mentor  
Asheboro (336) 318-1306
21. Omni Visions ♥  
Durham, Toll free 1-800-851-8905
22. Professional Parenting/Barium Springs  
Winston-Salem 336-768-4136
23. Seven Homes  
(336) 542-3307
24. The Children's Home, Inc ♥  
Winston Salem (336) 721-7600
25. Triad Treatment Homes  
Greensboro (336) 574-2404
26. Youth Focus  
Greensboro (336) 274-5909
27. Youth Unlimited  
Sophia (336) 861-9243

♥ Private Adoption Agency

## **Adoption Requirements in Randolph County**

1. Application, applicant must be 21 years of age, single or married.
2. MAPP/TIPS Training, complete the 30 hour course.
3. Adoption Home Study, consisting of family history, parenting skills, current family relationships, etc.
4. Fingerprint clearance by the FBI and SBI.
5. Criminal, Central Registry, Sex Offender, Nurses Aide Registry, and Responsible Individual List Checks to be completed.
6. Medical Exams for each parent.
7. Five References, three being non-familial persons.
8. Environmental Checklist to be completed by the social worker.
9. Employment and income verification and financial statement.
10. Verifications for:
  - Marriage Certificate (if applicable)
  - Divorce Decrees (if applicable)
  - Copies of Birth Certificates
  - Copies of Social Security Cards
  - Copies of Driver's Licenses
  - Vehicle Registration & Insurance
11. Approval by the Adoption Committee.

## **About the Waiting Children**

Thousands of children in North Carolina do not have permanent homes. These children are in the custody of a county's Department of Social Services because of abuse, neglect or because their parents voluntarily placed them for adoption.

**How many children are now in foster care?            10,524**

But not all of them are available for adoption. Most are in custody temporarily while social work professionals attempt to safely reunite them with their families or place them with relatives. Some will be adopted by foster parents.

**How many children are available for adoption?**

Approximately, one third of the children in foster care will be adopted. Court action to terminate parental rights is necessary before they are available for adoption. Of those who are legally free, many are in various stages of being adopted. There are several hundred children in foster care who are currently available for adoption and do not have a family already chosen.

**How many North Carolina foster children were adopted last year?**

1,662

**What ages of children are available?**

Children of all ages need adoptive homes. Fifty-six percent are five and under (few are infants), another 34 percent are between six and twelve years, and 10 percent are between 13 and 18 years. Many of them are siblings and need to be placed together.

**What kind of special needs do children have?**

Most foster children have special needs simply because they have undergone the trauma of abuse, neglect and separation from their birth families. Some have physical disabilities and medical problems. Many children need to be placed with a sibling or siblings.

**I'm concerned about children in the foster care system and want to be more informed. Where do I start?**

Contact your county Department of Social Services. Also, the Benton Foundation web site contains insight and analysis about children who are in foster care, as part of their KidsCampaign.

Excerpt taken from the NCKids adoption and foster care network website (10-3-08)  
[www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/adopt/aboutchildren.html](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/adopt/aboutchildren.html)