

# Be a **FOSTER** Family & **CHANGE** the WORLD OF A CHILD



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: How old are the children who need foster care?

A: Children who need foster care can be as young as newborns and up to the age of 18. We welcome foster parents who are able to care for children of all ages, including babies, older children, teenagers, siblings and those with special needs.

### Q: How long do foster children stay with their foster families?

A: The length of foster children's stay varies from a few months to a few years. Each child's foster care arrangement is carefully planned and catered to their specific needs to ensure safe reintegration of foster children to their natural families. The ultimate goal of fostering is to reunite children with their natural parents or families whenever possible.

### Q: How are foster children matched to their foster families?

A: The matching process takes into consideration the needs of the foster child and foster family's ability to care for the child. Foster parents can indicate preferences such as age and gender of a child that they feel they can best care for.



## Find Out More About Fostering!



9113 7612



[fostering@boystown.org.sg](mailto:fostering@boystown.org.sg)



[boystown.fostering](https://www.facebook.com/boystown.fostering)



[www.boystown.org.sg/fostering-services/](https://www.boystown.org.sg/fostering-services/)

Boys' Town Fostering Services (BTFS) is a fostering agency appointed by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). We are one of the 6 key services offered by Boys' Town – a charity started in 1948 by the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel to help children and youth in-need.



BOYS' TOWN  
**Fostering  
Services**







## What Is Fostering?

Fostering is a temporary care arrangement for vulnerable children, who are 18 years of age and below, who need a safe, stable and nurturing home.

## Why Are Children In Foster Care?

Children may be in foster care when they have been abused, neglected or abandoned and it has been assessed by professionals to be unsafe for them to remain under their natural family's care.

## How Can I Help?

Be a foster parent! For children from disadvantaged backgrounds, foster care gives them a positive experience of family life, which they may not have in their natural family setting. By fostering, you are not only taking care of the child's physical needs, but also meeting the child's emotional, social and psychological needs, so that the child can fulfil his/her potential.

You can also be part of the support system for our foster children and foster families by volunteering! Volunteers can help by tutoring, providing transport, befriending a foster child and more.

## Am I Eligible?

To apply to be a foster parent, you should be:

- ✓ A resident of Singapore
- ✓ At least 25 years old
- ✓ Married and apply together as a couple
- ✓ Medically fit to care for children
- ✓ Have a minimum monthly household income of S\$2,000 and a Per Capita Income of at least \$700
- ✓ Have attained secondary school education
- ✓ Have experience caring for and living with children and/or exhibit strong parenting skills
- ✓ Willing to provide and ensure a child-safe home environment for the foster child
- ✓ Willing to work with MSF and other professionals for the child's best interest

## We Will Journey With You!

If you and your spouse become foster parents, you can expect to receive various forms of support during your fostering journey from our team of social workers who work closely with MSF:

- Monthly allowances to help defray the expenses of caring for the child
- Trainings and parenting advice
- 24-Hour Emergency Hotline
- Medical Fee Exemption Card (MFEC) which will fully cover the foster child's basic medical expenses at polyclinics and restructured hospitals
- Subsidies for infant care/ childcare/ student care
- Childcare leave entitlement
- Respite care support and support from volunteers

## The Application Process

Email us at [fostering@boystown.org.sg](mailto:fostering@boystown.org.sg) or call us at 9113 7612 to request for a copy of the application form. Scan QR code to download the application form!



A final report is put together and submitted to a panel in MSF where the outcome of the application will be determined.



- Home visits will be conducted to assess your home environment and to speak to all your household members about fostering.

- You and your spouse are also required to undergo screenings to verify that you are medically fit to care for children.

The application process may take approximately 2-3 months to complete.

Approved applicants will be required to attend foundation and intermediate training to prepare themselves for the care of foster child.