

If now is not the right time to become a foster or adoptive parent, there are still many ways you can help. You can:

Donate:

- New coats
- Membership fees for clubs
- Musical instrument for school band

Purchase:

- Eyeglasses
- "Back to school" shoes or clothes
- Class ring for senior student
- Sports or cheerleading uniforms
- Prom dress
- School yearbook

Offer services:

- Haircuts
- Photographs
- Manicure or pedicure for special occasion
- Baked treats for school parties
- Respite care for foster families

Make a connection:

- Be a mentor
- Give an older child a place to visit for the holidays



"In later years, a child that you felt you just didn't affect will call you and tell you how grateful they are that you took the time and effort to share your life and home with them. This is what makes this type of work the most exciting and rewarding job on earth."

you won't believe what you've been missing...



Becoming a
**Foster or
Adoptive
Parent**



What do foster & adoptive parents do?

The goal for all Missouri children is safe and permanent homes. Whenever possible, we help to strengthen the biological families of foster children so they can safely return to their own homes. We also look for relatives or others who are familiar to them who might be able to provide temporary care for them. However, when reunification is not possible, adoptive families come forward to provide "forever homes" for the children.

Who are the children in foster care?

Boys and girls

- Of many races and ethnicities
- Of varying ages (the average age of a Missouri foster child is 10 years)
- With differing levels of needs
- With brothers and sisters who need a home where they can stay together

Do I have what it takes to care for these children?

Children in foster care are, first and foremost, children. Families with similar interests and skills can be matched to the children's interests and individual needs. You will receive training to help you better understand the children. Also, help is available for the families who care for children with special medical or emotional needs.



Learn More.

Consider fostering or adopting and find out what you've been missing. To learn more, call:

1-800-554-2222

or your local Children's Division Office



If you have not considered fostering or adopting, you won't believe what you've been missing.

Each year, there are thousands of Missouri children who cannot safely remain in their homes. Thankfully, there are foster and adoptive families waiting to welcome these children with open arms.



Is there room in your heart for one of Missouri's children? Consider fostering or adopting and find out what you've been missing.