



**Helping Hand Home  
Foster Care Program**

# Foster to Adopt

## **What is Foster to Adopt?**

Parents who chose this option are fostering while waiting to adopt the child they are caring for. This is called a legal risk placement. According to the Minimum Standards (2007), legal risk placements are such because a child has not yet had one or both of his or her parent's rights terminated. Once a child is legally free then they can be adopted.

## **Who are foster to adopt children?**

- Ages range from birth to 17
- Children whose lives have been disrupted by a family crisis
- Children from all racial, religious and socio-economical backgrounds
- Children who may experience development or physical disabilities or emotional problems
- School age children who may have behavioral problems or learning disabilities
- Infants who may have been exposed to drugs/alcohol and have special medical/feeding needs
- Children who are or about to be legally free to be adopted.

## **Who are foster to adopt parents?**

- Are caring and responsible individuals willing to be part of a professional team
- Are at least 25 years old, have a valid driver's license and proof of automobile insurance
- Single or married
- Will pass a criminal background, child abuse registration check, driver's check and FBI fingerprint check
- Have high school diploma or GED
- Able to meet non-foster care financial needs without foster care payments
- Pass fire and health inspection of home and have adequate space, as defined in Texas Minimum Standards
- Willing to participate in Pre-Service, including: CPR/First Aid, Behavioral Intervention Training, Negative TB Test, and home study

## **What support does HHH Foster Care Program provide to foster to adopt parents?**

- Financial support and emotional support
- Clinical guidance and suggested interventions to address the child's behavior
- Opportunities to attend family therapy to further enhance relationships
- Case management services
- A chance to build relationships with other foster and foster to adopt families
- Two days of respite monthly, encouraging families to take time for themselves
- Training during pre-service and annually at no charge to family
- Free, qualified childcare during training for biological and foster children
- Post-adoptive services

## **What do I have to do to become a foster to adopt parent?**

The first step is to attend an informational meeting or just give us a call! We are happy to answer your questions and excited for you to be a part of our HHH family! Contact Sarah McMahan to set up a meeting date at 512-459-3353 ext. 122 or email [smcmahan@helpinghandhome.org](mailto:smcmahan@helpinghandhome.org).

**Helping Hand Home for Children  
Foster Care Program  
3804 Avenue B  
Austin, Texas 78751  
512-459-3353  
[www.helpinghandhome.org](http://www.helpinghandhome.org)**