

THE CHILDREN

Examples of children who may need foster/adopt homes include the following:

- Christopher, 7, and Cathy, 4, siblings who have been in foster care for 10 months. The birth family has made little progress towards reunification.
- Terrance, infant, was born drug exposed. Birth mother has had three other children born drug exposed that have been adopted.
- Stacy, age 10, resided in foster care from age 6 to 8. She is being replaced into care.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE MONTGOMERY
COUNTY FOSTER/ADOPT
PROGRAM CONTACT:

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FOSTER/ ADOPT PROGRAM

Montgomery County
Office of Children
and Youth



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WHAT IS FOSTER/ADOPT?

The Foster/Adopt program is an innovative program designed to address permanency planning for children who are in the foster care system. It is based on a strong philosophy that every child deserves continuity and permanency. Through the use of concurrent planning, child welfare agencies are able to develop two plans for a child at the same time – one for family reunification and one for another permanent placement, such as adoption, kinship care or placement with extended family. The law requires that time limited “reasonable efforts” are made to reunify children with their birth families, and in the majority of instances children do return home to their parents. If family reunification efforts fail, the backup plan of adoption can be implemented in a timely basis.

The Benefits of having two Plans:

- Reduces unnecessary delays that prevent a permanent, stable situation for children and families
- Minimizes the number of out of home placement for the child
- Minimizes the degree to which children suffer loss, separations, and broken attachments

When a child is unable to return to the birth family, he/she may remain with the foster parents who are an approved adoptive family.

Who are the Children?

The Office of Children and Youth serves all children in Montgomery County who have been placed in foster care due to abuse, neglect, homelessness, and abandonment. Most of the children who need foster/adopt homes are preschool and elementary school age children. Many are from minority backgrounds, and some need families who can accept two or more children within a sibling group.

Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth welcomes foster/adopt families from all economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. Such person(s) may be single, or married, own or rent a home, may or may not have children. All must meet the following basic minimum requirements:

- You must participate in a preservice foster care and adoption training and have an approved foster/adopt homestudy completed by the agency.
- You must be at least 21 years old.
- You must be willing to work with children, their birth parents, and agency staff as part of a professional team.
- You must never have been convicted of any offense related to the abuse of children
- You must have a home or apartment that meets basic standards as set forth by the Department of Public Welfare.
- You must be free from communicable disease and able to care for children as determined by a licensed physician.
- You must be a Montgomery County resident or reside in the surrounding areas.

Successful foster/adopt parents maintain open communications with the children in their care, the agency and the birth family. They are willing to put a child's needs paramount to their own and they possess the flexibility and tenacity to cope with the ambiguous nature of the foster adopt process.