

## What is Foster Care?

A family home that provides short term care to children and youth during a difficult time. The family provides them with life necessities and emotional support until they are able to safely return home, move to kin or until permanency may be needed.

## What is Foster to Permanency?

Sometimes children and youth are unable to return to their family and there may not be kin options. In these instances, foster parents can provide permanency such as adoption or legal custody.

## Who are the children and youth?

- \* Children and youth ranging in age from babies to teens. Some are sibling groups.
- \* Children and youth are unique and reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of our community.
- \* Each child and youth is unique with special qualities and traits.

# Linck Child, Youth and Family Supports

Strong connections for a better future, LINCK is an inclusive and trusted local resource that supports families at all life stages

**495 Grand Avenue West  
Chatham, Ontario  
N7L 1C5**

**Call: 519-352-0440 or**

**Email: [foster.permanency@linck.org](mailto:foster.permanency@linck.org)  
to learn more about our foster care services.**

**[www.linck.org](http://www.linck.org)**



# Foster Care Services

*Our focus is ensuring the safety and wellbeing of each child and youth*



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## Who can be a foster parent?

- \* Single adults or couples
- \* Heterosexual, cis-gender, and 2SLGBTQI people
- \* Stay-at-home parents, those that work outside of the home or virtually, retirees
- \* Individuals from any culture, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds
- \* Adults committed to providing culturally responsive home-based care to children and youth
- \* Adults with special skills or special childcare related training



## What qualities do you need?

- \* Warm, caring, and stable home environment
- \* Be non-judgmental
- \* Willing to be a part of a team, working with the Society, families, and collaterals
- \* Have patience and understanding when working with children/youth
- \* Be trauma informed or willing to be trained
- \* Understanding that some of the children may present with complex emotional and physical needs

## What is the process?

- \* Initial inquiry by phone, in person or email
- \* A SAFE homestudy is an assessment completed by LINCK to get to know each applicant
- \* Introductory PRIDE training is required for each applicant
- \* Orientation by the Resource Team upon approval



## What supports are available to our foster parents?

- \* Ongoing support by your resource worker and other agency staff
- \* Interagency supports such as development services, volunteer drives, mental health services
- \* LINCK EAP (Employee Assistance Plan) for foster caregivers
- \* Supports from community services
- \* Daily non-taxable reimbursement for living expenses, clothing, recreation, and school costs
- \* Dental, eye and medical coverage
- \* Ongoing training opportunities
- \* Support from the Foster Parent Association