



How to Care for a Foster or Adoptive Family

1. When a foster or adoptive family has a new placement or is having an especially difficult time, offer to bring meals, clean their house, or help out with the other kids in the home.
2. Commit to sending regular emails or notes, encouraging families that they have someone behind their decision to foster or adopt.
3. Offer extra furniture or clothes in good condition to families who may have quick placements.
4. Become an official respite care provider. This requires training, and it allows a foster child to stay with you up to a few days. Get to know a family and then attend the respite training from the agency they are licensed through. Before the child is left with you, spend time with the family several times so the child does not feel like he or she is staying with a stranger.
5. Foster families are usually provided just enough money to cover the costs of the basic needs of a child. Help pay for summer camp or cover their sports fees. Consider giving them dinner gift cards or grocery gift cards. Just offer to cover the costs before they ask. Adoptive families may need help with adoption costs. Consider having a fundraiser for them.
6. Welcome foster and adoptive families to birthday parties, church, and gatherings. Have grace and mercy for the additional challenges of parenting children from hard places. When these families share their struggles, don't judge, dismiss, or try to solve everything. Just listen and offer a loving response. Read a book or research the web to understand the additional challenges children from hard places must overcome.
7. Be a part of a support team for a foster or adoptive family. Whether formed out of a Bible study or other small group, create wrap-around support for a family to care for them and be in community with them.

