**What is Fostering?**

Fostering provides temporary and sometimes longer-term care for children and youth who are unable to live with their families. Foster parents are key members of a team dedicated to helping children and youth through difficult situations by offering a supportive, nurturing and safe environment.

Who can Foster?

There are many different people that make great foster parents. Foster parents may be:

* Single, married or living in a common-law relationship
* Families with or without children
* Own their home or rent
* Stay-at-home parents, working outside the home, or retired
* Able to provide care for one child, more than one child, a sibling group, infants, school age children and/ or youth

**What are the criteria to become a Foster Parent?**

* At least one applicant who is 25 years of age or older
* Willing to participate in the Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) assessment process which includes a number of information sessions and a home assessment
* Patience, optimism, caring, commitment and willingness to work as part of a team

**What supports and services are available to Foster Parents?**

There are a variety of supports and services available to foster parents, including:

* Social work support from the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development
* Monthly foster care rate to cover the day-to-day costs of caring for a child/youth
* Child care costs for children placed in a foster home where foster parents work
* Babysitting costs for foster parents to attend foster care related training
* Vision, dental and medical costs for child/youth
* An active Foster Families Association that all foster parents can become involved in

**To learn more about Fostering and/or to apply to become a Foster Parent**

Call the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development’s toll-free number **1-855-683-8111** and speak to a social worker or visit **www.fosterafuture.ca**

Call the Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association’s toll-free number **1-877-754-0218** or visit **www.nlffa.com**