



WELCOME!

Thank you for your interest in join with us as a foster parent to help bring hope and healing to foster children. We applaud your desire to open your heart and home to the children in your community. Becoming a foster parent means you have an amazing opportunity to positively change the life of a child or sibling group by providing a caring, safe, and secure family environment. While becoming a foster parent is a big commitment and takes time to get certified, the rewards are real and amazing for you and those children you open your heart and home to, and you will have stories to share for a lifetime like the story below.

A Foster Mom's Story

Being a foster parent for five years has been an incredible growing experience. I thought I had much to offer a hurting child, but instead I found out that a child in need also had a lot to offer me. Foster mothering means having the opportunity to 'start over' by putting together a family schedule, teaching a new routine, and sometimes overcoming behavioral problems. Being a foster mother means holding in my hurts as I comfort a crying child who only wants his mommy. It can also mean being disliked, yelled at, and even hated at times. It also means turning the other cheek and holding the hurting one when she needs it. It means feeling good that this child feels safe enough to let her anger out, and all the while I am falling in love with her; this special, unique child, God's gift of a child.

As a foster mom I do the normal things like fix meals and treat "owies", do the laundry and the dishes, change diapers, and clean the house. I am exhausted by the end of most days, but I also know that I am changing a child's life daily. I am putting a window in their little life that they will be able to look through forever.

I have experienced the wonder of a hurting child singing in the shower for the first time. I have seen the look of pride on a little one who received his first pair of new shoes. I have heard a child read a book to me when experts thought he could never read. I have seen children realize for the first time that they are special and loved and that they can have big dreams and reach for the biggest and brightest stars.

I have also felt sorrow when a child leaves our home and is reunited with his family. But this brings joy mixed with sadness, because I have helped a family be reunited. I have also felt the incredible thrill of adding a child to our family forever. You can't imagine the feeling or maybe you can. Being a foster mother is hard work, but...it is the most rewarding work in the whole world.

Many hands make light work.



Please join hands with us in bringing hope and life to foster children!

CALIFORNIA FOSTER PARENTING LICENSING REQUIREMENTS & PROCESS

- ✘ **Foster Parent Application Form**
Completed and signed by applicant(s), mailed in enclosed envelope.
- ✘ **Criminal Background Screening**
All persons over the age of 18 living in the home must complete a state and national finger print clearance and Child Abuse Index screening process.
- ✘ **Foster Parent Paperwork Packet**
Each applicant must complete various agency, region and state forms, including medical information, home and automobile insurance, emergency contacts, and other pertinent information.
- ✘ **Family Home Study Assessment**
A Remi Vista Social Worker will meet with you in your home and get to know you.
- ✘ **Reference Letters**
Applicants must acquire references from 3 separate individuals.
- ✘ **Foster Parent Pre-Certification/Training**
Prospective Foster Parents must complete:
 - 12 hours of pre-certification training sessions through Remi Vista, Inc. and/or relevant trainings happening in the community through the local community colleges.
 - **First Aid & CPR training hours are in addition to the 12 hours**
 - After initial certification, foster parents will be required to take 12 hours of continued training each year and keep their First Aid & CPR certifications current in order to remain certified as foster parents.
- ✘ **Family Home Inspection**
A social worker will inspect your home to insure that it meets all Community Care Licensing safety and health requirements.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND FAMILY

- ☞ Foster parents shall be emotionally stable individuals, age 21 or over.
- ☞ Each foster parent shall pass a medical examination and obtain medical clearance.
- ☞ Applicants and persons 18 years of age and older living in the home must be able to pass a criminal background screening, as well as a child abuse screening.
- ☞ Foster parents shall verify a stable income, sufficient enough to meet the needs of the overall family.
- ☞ Foster parents shall keep confidential all information shared by the agency and shall respect the confidentiality of a child or children placed in their home.
- ☞ Foster parents shall provide routine transportation to appointments and activities.
All drivers shall have a valid California Driver's License.
- ☞ No foster parent shall utilize any form of corporal punishment.
- ☞ Foster parents shall be patient and caring and possess the ability and endurance to make a complete commitment to a child in need.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF THE HOME

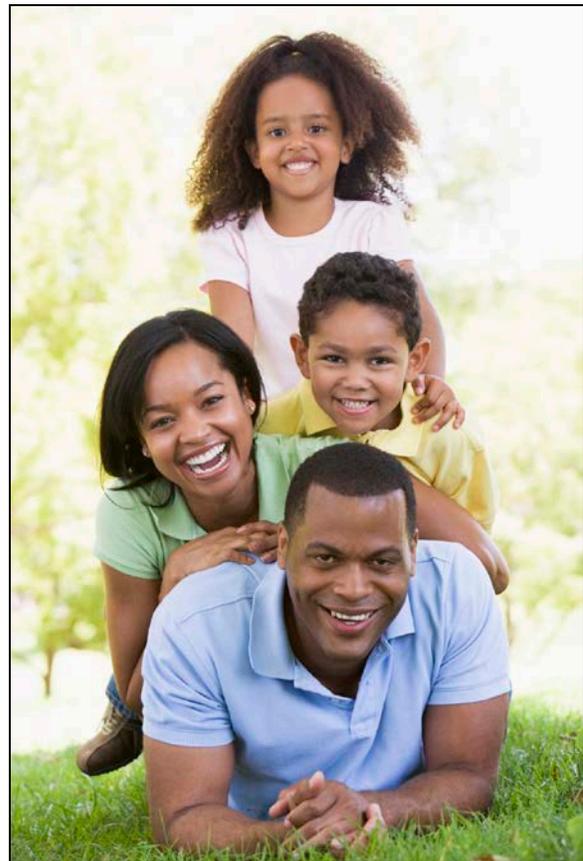
- ★ The home shall be clean, in good repair and shall provide for normal comforts.
- ★ The home shall have an adequately supplied first-aid kit; all medications must be locked.
- ★ Each foster child must have their own bed; no more than 2 children per room.
- ★ No more than six foster children shall be in any home, except sibling groups, as approved by the County or State Agency Representative.
- ★ Firearms and ammunition must be securely locked in separate locations.
- ★ The home shall be free from health and fire hazards and must have working smoke detectors.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We provide a basic reimbursement to foster parents to meet the foster child's basic physical needs, including food, shelter, clothing, personal items, gifts and recreation. Limited funds may also be available for other expenses. All foster children receive Medi-Cal insurance, which covers medical services, prescribed medications, eye care, dental care, and some mental health services.

Foster parents receive reimbursement based upon the number of days children were in their home in the previous month. Rates of reimbursement depend on the ages of the foster child in accordance with the chart below. \$50.00 per month must be spent on new clothing, and a monthly monetary allowance should be given based on the child's age.

Remi Vista Foster Child Monthly Reimbursement Rates July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017	
Ages of children:	Foster Parent Receives:
0-4	\$896.00
5-8	\$954.00
9-11	\$994.00
12-14	\$1032.00
15-21	\$1072.00



Please complete the enclosed foster parent application and mail it in the enclosed envelope. If you have questions, please feel free to call the office. Again, thank you for your interest in Remi Vista foster care. We look forward to meeting you!