

## Strengths as related to the Twelve Skills for Successful Fostering and Adopting

1. Know your own family
2. Communicate effectively
3. Know the children
4. Build on strengths; meet needs
5. Work in partnership
6. Be loss and attachment experts
7. Manage behaviors
8. Build connections
9. Build self-esteem
10. Assure health and safety
11. Assess impact
12. Make an informed decision

Now's the time!!!

Become a Foster Parent.

Take the time to make a difference in a child's life.



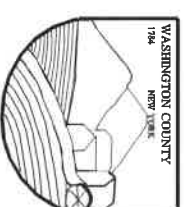
Washington County

Department of Social Services

383 Broadway Fort Edward NY 12828  
Main Number 518-746-2300  
Foster Care HOPE Caseworker  
(518) 746-2300 ext. 3380

## What is

## Foster Care?



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
383 Broadway  
Fort Edward, NY 12828  
(518) 746-2300

Tammy L. Delorme, Commissioner  
Tracy Hudson, Director of HOPE  
Michele Smith, Supervisor of HOPE  
Jason Ward, Supervisor Foster Care



### Characteristics found in Successful Foster Parents

- Are tolerant and open minded
- Are flexible, supportive and encouraging
- Can understand a child's feelings
- Are able to work as a team
- Have good communication skills but also are a good listener
- Are patient
- Have both the physical room and emotional room for a child in need
- Are able to accept the temporary nature of the child's placement
- Have a very healthy sense of humor

### How do I become a foster parent?

- You must be at least 21 years of age
  - Be in reasonably sound physical and mental health
  - Be financially sound enough to provide a stable home
  - Provide a child with a bed and place to store their belongings in your home
  - Attend Group Preparation and Selection for Foster Parenting trainings which uses the Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting
  - Successfully pass a background check through the State of New York
  - Work in conjunction with DSS staff for the safety and permanency of a child in need of a home
  - Complete documentation to become certified
  - Renew certification yearly
- Please contact Naomi Palmer, HOPE Caseworker at (518) 746-2300 Ext. 3380

### What does a foster parent do?

- Provides a safe and nurturing home to children
- Transports children to visits and appointments
- Ensures that children attend an educational program and follow the child's academic progress
- Ensures the child takes prescribed medication
- Advocates for the child at school and home
- Attends any trainings that may benefit the foster child

