

HOW DO I BECOME A GLOVE HOUSE FOSTER PARENT?

Glove House manages the training of foster parents, certifying foster homes and placing foster children in Seneca County. We also serve all the surrounding counties in the finger lakes.

The process of becoming a Glove House foster parent involves five steps:

The Initial Home Visit: A Glove House representative will meet with you in your home to discuss the program and process, and help you decide whether foster parenting is right for you. If so, you may be invited to the next Pre-Service Orientation.

Pre-Service Orientation: All prospective foster parents must attend the 10-session Pre-Service classes before a foster child can be placed in the home. During the classes, applicants learn more about what to expect as foster parents, enabling them to further assess whether foster parenting is right for them. During the classes, background checks are initiated.

Application: Applicants complete the application and submit documents described on the next page at their own pace.

The Home Study: A Glove House representative will meet with prospective foster parents for two to three in-depth interviews, gathering their personal histories. A Home Study will be written which will facilitate careful matching with children in need of a foster family. During visits to the home, an initial Home Safety Inspection will occur, to determine whether the home meets state safety requirements. A list of requirements is provided.

Approval: When the Pre-Service classes are completed, the application and all other paperwork are received, and the Home Study and background checks completed, a committee of Glove House staff screens applicant's confidential family file and makes a determination regarding approval.

Matching: Glove House staff will help you determine the age, gender, and type of child best suited to your family. A foster care placement is not guaranteed. When a child has been referred for whom a particular approved family might be a good match, all background information gathered is shared with the family. The decision to accept the child should be carefully considered, and each family decides for themselves whether that child is the right child for them. There is no obligation to take a placement if a family does not feel ready. If the child's situation allows, a meeting with their current caregiver may be arranged so that the family might gain further insight regarding the child. If the family decides to proceed, this is often followed by a brief introduction of the family to the child. Thereafter, a day visit, and then an overnight visit by the child to the family's home may be possible prior to placement.

Ongoing Training: There are annual training requirements after a family has been approved. Self-study materials are available for use at home, and on occasion, required trainings may occur at the Glove House office.

FOSTER PARENT APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must complete the application process before approval and certification. One purpose of the application process is to assess whether applicants have the ability to work in cooperation with Glove House staff in caring for children with special needs. Another function of the process is to determine what types of children would be a good match with a family's abilities and lifestyle.

The process takes approximately 10-12 weeks and begins when the completed application is returned to Glove House