



Consider fostering and take the next step!



Our Kids



Call us at 847-356-3322



Need you!



Join our Families & Foster!

Allendale's Bradley Counseling Center
420 W. Grand Avenue
Lake Villa, IL 60046

**A Quick Guide to One of the Greatest
Gifts You Can Give a Child in Need**



Allendale Association

**FIVE FAST
FACTS**

**SPECIALIZED
FOSTER
CARE**

www.Allendale4kids.org

How the Program Works 5 Fast Facts

At Allendale, we have more than 45 years of experience administering our foster care program. In a nutshell, here's how it works.

1. Most Anyone Can Be a Foster Parent

Foster parents come in all shapes, sizes and colors. They can:

- **Be single or married**
- **Own or rent a house or apartment**
- **Work full time, part-time or not at all**
- **Have biological children**

In addition, foster parents must:

- **Agree to a background check and fingerprints for all family members over 13**
- **Demonstrate financial stability**
- **Pass a health physical exam**
- **Obtain permission from landlord**
- **Be licensed and over 21 (In two-parent homes, both adults must be licensed)**

2. The Foster Parent's Role

As a foster parent, you will provide food, clothing, housing, supervision, recreation, plus access to education and transportation to needed services. You will work closely with your foster child's care team. You will provide the structure, consistency, routine and relationship that kids need to understand themselves and fulfill their potential.

Frankly, for a youth who has had inconsistent education, frequent moves, and lack of routine, just having someone care enough to provide the basics with a stable structured environment makes all the difference! The success for many of our youth is a long-term journey needing commitment and dedication on the part of the foster parents. We have witnessed many foster children overcome adversity, going on to living independently, working and living their lives.

Interested In Fostering?

Program Facts Continued

3. The Licensing/Training Process

The process begins when you call us to express your interest in fostering. We'll respond by providing basic information and answer any initial questions you have. The next steps would be to:

- **Schedule and conduct an initial interview**
- **Complete licensing paperwork, which can be done via mail or in person**
- **Schedule and conduct a home visit**
- **Begin the state required certification training and DCFS pre-licensure classes**
- **Schedule and conduct a second home visit**
- **Once all these requirements are met—background checks, physicals, training, etc.—your foster parent license will be submitted for finalization**

Your home will be licensed for kids ages 0-21. You'll be advised once your license becomes active, and DCFS will send you a copy to display in your home. Within 60 days, you'll receive an unannounced visit to ensure your ongoing compliance.

Throughout the time you are licensed, your home will be monitored every six months to ensure compliance with state licensing and safety requirements. Every four years, your license will be renewed, subject to updated documentation and training requirements. Training, support and on-going communication will continue throughout all aspects of the entire process.

4. Foster Parents' Rights

Often, you will have the opportunity to choose your foster child from a list of options. Allendale will work with you to determine who will work best with your family.

You will have the opportunity to read that child's confidential file and information.

Call Our Team!

Program Facts Continued

If you're interested in meeting the child, we schedule an introduction. After the meeting, you and the child (depending on age) decide if you want to start pre-placement visits.

Pre-placement visits can last as long they need to before proceeding to placement. 30 days after placement, you'll meet with your child's casework staff and formulate action steps. We walk you through each one, supporting you and your foster child every step of the way.

Some people want to know if their foster child may be adoptable down the road. We'll share your foster child's "permanency plan" with you up front, so you'll know if that's an option.

5. Allendale's Support System for Fosters

Each child in specialized foster care has a dedicated care team, which includes trained case workers, therapists, nurses and more. Foster parents become part of that team and receive extensive support, which includes:

- **Weekly telephone consultations with the child's case specialist and clinical supervisor.**
- **Training on our treatment model (REStArT) and other services to help you better understand your foster child and how to work with him/her.**
- **Monthly, in-person clinical consultations and Child and Family Team Meetings.**
- **Monthly, dinner/group training sessions where foster families share experiences, support each other, and learn together.**
- **Financial support, including monthly board payments, respite funds, non-recurring funds (one-time camps and activities) and monthly enrichment funds (other enrichment activities).**
- **24/7, 365 live support. You will ALWAYS be able to reach a member of your child's foster care team by phone!**

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