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Available in Lasalle County.







Program information and contact numbers may be found on

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Find us on Social Media







Youth Service Bureau







Communities that Care Have Families that Share

Helping young people and families succeed by serving them in their home, school and community.

424 W. Madison Street Ottawa, IL 61350 815.433.3953 **Foster care** is a program for children in state custody who are unable to remain safely in their home. Children in foster care stay with a family who provides safety, nurturing, support and role models for change. Foster care is meant to be a temporary, short term solution to an emergency.

Important to know:

- Whenever possible, YSB preserves the child's family. A child should be separated from his or her family only when the family is absent or is unwilling or unable to provide a minimally acceptable family life.
- The purpose of foster care is to provide safety, continuity, consistency and permanency in a family setting for the growing child. When returning home is not possible, alternative permanent plans must be pursued.
- Current foster care policy directs the case worker to appropriate service delivery and timely permanent planning decisions.

To improve results for children and families in the foster care system, four key strategies are used:

- 1. Active community partnership
- Neighborhood-based recruitment and retention of foster homes
- 3. Self evaluation and data driven decisions
- 4. Team decision meetings involving both birth parents and foster parents, when appropriate.

Give families a chance:

The YSB Foster Care program offers a variety of foster care experiences:

- Emergency Foster Care
- Short-Term Respite Foster Care
- Traditional Foster Care
- Specialized Foster Care



Training & Support Services

- Pre-service and ongoing foster parent training
- Financial reimbursement for room and board
- Clothing and personal allowance
- Reimbursement for travel when excessive, with prior approval
- Foster parent support

Who can make a difference? Persons who:

Will share their heart, home and love with a child in need

Will provide support and love to children within your own community

Will offer a caring environment that will bring a child the future he/she deserves

- Are single, married, or in a legal civil union
- Rent or own their home
- Are at least 21 years of age
- Have sufficient income to provide for their family
- Complete state licensing process
- Are willing to work as a member of a professional team
- Are able to help a child cope with separation, loss and grief
- Are supportive of the child's biological family and return home goals
- Help the child preserve relationships as well as build new ones
- Comply with licensing standards for foster family homes

