

Be a **FOSTER** Family & **CHANGE** the WORLD OF A CHILD



Frequently Asked Questions

How old are the children in the foster care system?

Children in foster care can be as young as newborns and up to 18 years old.

Can foster parents use physical punishment on the foster child?

No. Physical punishment in any form is not allowed. Instead, foster parents are encouraged to use positive parenting techniques such as setting boundaries, explaining consequences, implementing time-out sessions, and removing privileges to encourage good behaviour.

Can expatriates/foreigners apply to be foster parents?

Yes. However, to minimise disruption to a child's stay with the foster family, expatriates/foreigners who apply to be foster parents should plan to remain in Singapore for at least the next three years.

How long do foster children stay with their foster families?

The duration varies and can range from a few months to several years. Each child's foster care arrangement is carefully planned based on their specific needs, with the goal of ensuring a safe reintegration into their natural families.

How are foster children matched to their foster families?

The matching process takes into consideration the needs of the foster child and the foster family's ability to care for the child.

Foster parents can indicate preferences such as age and gender of the child that they feel they can best care for.



Have questions about fostering? We'd love to hear from you!



9326 6627



fostering@boystown.org.sg



[boystown.fostering-services](https://www.boystown.org.sg/fostering-services/)



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Boys' Town Fostering Services (BTFS) is a fostering agency appointed by the Ministry of Social and Family Development in Singapore. It is also one of the six key services offered by Boys' Town, a Catholic charity founded by the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel in 1948.

Since 2015, BTFS has been recruiting and supporting foster families to provide safe, stable, and nurturing home environments for children and young persons in the foster care system. In 2019, BTFS expanded its services to include kinship care support, ensuring that children in kinship arrangements receive the stability and care they need.



Fostering in Singapore

The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) Fostering Scheme provides temporary alternative care for children under 18 who need a safe, stable, and nurturing home.

It aims to reunite these children with their birth families once they are able to resume care, or to provide long-term care for children whose parents are unable to care for them.

Be a Foster Parent. Change a Life.

For children from disadvantaged backgrounds, foster care offers the chance to experience a safe and nurturing family environment.

As a foster parent, you do more than provide shelter and basic care. You help meet a child's emotional, social, and psychological needs, giving them the foundation to grow, heal, and thrive.

Not ready to foster? You can still make a difference!

Join our village of support by volunteering*! Whether it's tutoring, providing transport, or befriending a foster child, your time and care can create a lasting impact.

**Please note that volunteer opportunities may vary.*

Am I Eligible?

You are required to fulfill the following criteria

- Be married and apply together as a couple
- Be at least 25 years old
- Be financially stable and medically fit to care for children
- Commit to providing a child-safe home environment

This includes:

- Refraining from the use of physical punishment such as caning or hitting
- For children below the age of 13, ensuring window grilles are installed on all windows

We will journey with you!

To help foster parents defray the costs of caring for a foster child, MSF provides the following support:

- **Fostering Allowance**- A monthly allowance of \$1,100 is provided for each foster child under your care, and \$1,500 for a foster child with special needs.
- **Childcare, Student Care and Medical Subsidies**
- **Support from a Foster Care Worker**
- **Training Courses by Social Service Institute**
- **Emergency Hotline**
- **Childcare Leave Benefits**

The Application Process

The entire application and assessment process takes about three months.

