

DCFS FOSTER PARENT REQUIREMENTS

- At least 21 years of age
- Single, married, divorced, or widowed for 2 years (CN policy)
- Financially stable (able to meet own family's needs)
- Good physical, emotional and mental health
- Adequate space in home for additional child
- 75sq ft for first child, 55sq ft for an additional placement
- Pass state and federal criminal clearances
- Attend 24 hours of pre-service training
- Participate in home study process

CROSSROADS NOLA REQUIREMENTS

The items listed below are not required for foster parent certification by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. However, at Crossroads NOLA, we believe foster parents should not simply be passionate about caring for children from hard places, but also be competent to do so. We believe these small, additional steps will help you better care for children who have experienced trauma and will make the most of the support services on which we spend valuable resources. In order to have our Foster Care and Adoption Specialist conduct your home study, families agree to:

PRE-CERTIFICATION:

FAITH STATEMENT & CHURCH INVOLVMENT

Applicants are mature, healthy adults who follow Jesus and seek to love their neighbors in word and deed, are members of a local church, their beliefs and values align with Crossroads NOLA's as outlined in our faith statement and core values.

RECRUIT 3 FAMILY PARTNERS

Family Partners agree to walk with you as you foster/adopt. They provide practical support such as bringing meals and babysitting. We ask that you identify people in your life to serve as Family Partners, but, if needed, we can match you with a Family Partner. For more information see attachment.

READ *THE CONNECTED CHILD* BY DR. KARYN PURIVS AND DR. DAVID CROSS

Early childhood trauma affects a child's brain and behavior – we want you to be prepared for that! *The Connected Child* will give you insight into how trauma affects children and how you can parent in a way that promotes healing and trust. At Crossroads NOLA, our on-going training events build upon the principles in *The Connected Child*.

WATCH THE TBRI INTRODUCTORY TRAINING VIDEO

Louisiana's Child Welfare Program has implemented Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) to assist families in working with children from hard places. We want you to understand the concepts of how to use TBRI in a home setting by listening to actual experiences from our TBRI Educator/ Support Specialist. This introductory video will give you a foundation on which future training events will build.

POST-CERTIFICATION/ONGOING:

COMMUNICATION

Our team is here to support you! To make sure this happens, we ask that you:

- Notify us when you have a placement change (new child in your home, child exits home).
- Keep us updated on challenges you're facing, as well as things that are going great!

SUBMIT MONTHLY PLACEMENT DATA

By providing us with monthly placement data, you'll help us report our work to grant making organizations and DCFS. This allows us to continue to expand what we're currently doing, serving more families and children across south Louisiana. Once you're certified, we'll send you monthly reminders to submit your placement data, via our simple online form.