

Resources for Foster Families, Children and Teens

While all parents are struggling with the challenges of parenting through this crisis, foster families may face additional difficulties. Children have lost the stability that school or childcare offered and foster parents or relatives caring for children may be faced with new or continuing behavioral and academic challenges. Visits with biological parents have been suspended, adding to family stress. Teens aging out of care may be managing job loss or loss of housing.

- Foster Adopt Connect continues to offer a variety of services to foster families, children and teens aging out of care. Staff are working remotely, but 417-866-3672 is checked consistently. Leave a detailed message and the appropriate staff will return your call.
- Sammy's Window is available for foster families in need of diapers, wipes, hygiene items, socks, underwear and food boxes. Clothing items are only being provided for new placements or emergency situations. Please go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRfnysTGRCpbP8IPIrDiAcAgvXi-tXZPkS2MjKLPBlyxXqIQ/viewform?fbclid=IwAR3P1pl0d_gwdHaAoR_KTA-ZxUrD-DyEHZ5W3puL_nMk4Sgzu6C-39xmLJs to fill out a needs form and staff will call you. Items may be picked up with no-contact pick up or can be delivered if you're unable to pick up.

If you are struggling with supporting foster children during this time, consider the following resources:

- Online access to Karen Purvis' courses on children, trust and relationships are currently available at no charge for 30 days. Visit <https://icddigital.tcu.edu/us/> to access these online course resources.

Provide children in your care with honest, age-appropriate explanations about COVID-19.

- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/10-tips-for-talking-about-covid-19-with-your-kids> offers tips to help all parents, including foster parents, to talk with children about COVID-19.