## **Becoming a Foster Parent Frequently Asked Questions**

How old do I have to be? 21 years old

Can I be single? Yes.



Can I work outside the home? Yes, and in fact, proof of a source of income must be supplied.

Do I need to own my own home? No.

Can I have my own kids living at home? Yes. Families must have 6 or fewer children under the age of 12 living at home; and no more than 2 children under the age of 2 (including foster children).

Who else can live in my home with me? Anyone living in your home must be your spouse, your child or a relative. Unmarried couples living together are not eligible.

Can I be newly married or divorced? Foster parents must be married or divorced for at least one year prior to being eligible to allow proper time to adjust to their major life change.

**Is my home large enough?** The State of Nebraska requires 35 square feet of room in any home per foster child. Foster children and biological children may share a bedroom as long as it is age and gender appropriate, but must be provided appropriate privacy.

Will I be trained? CEDARS Foster parents are required to undergo 30 hours of training prior to being licensed and also complete ongoing training once licensed. Families are supported 24 hours, 7 days a week by staff who are easily reached via phone, night or day. CEDARS has been providing foster care in the community for over 15 years, and the staff bring a combined 125+ years of experience to the table to advocate for children and serve alongside their foster families. This means that they are a professional team, completely equipped to train and support new and experienced foster parents.

For more information, please call 402-434-5437.