

# Intake, screening, matching

Preparative work before placing in  
foster care

## Preparative work

- Constantly seeking new foster parents
- Screening: Traject, Abilities/Competences, Conditions
- Intake: making an opinion of the needs, abilities, ... of a particular child
- Matching a particular child/adult and a particular family

# Constantly seeking new foster parents

- To recruit we organize info sessions
- Monthly, over the province
- Evenings, from 20 pm – 22 pm
- A duo of a trained employer of the organization + foster parent
- They say: “before jumping into foster care, most families spend two or three years just thinking about it...”

# To become foster parent

- Screening & preparation
- Traject
- Abilities/Competenties
- Conditions



# Conditions



- There are a few restrictions on who can become a foster parent and each state has its own guidelines to follow.

These conditions or necessary:

- Proof (official document) of good behavior
- Being an adult
- Pedagogical skills
- Alle members of the family has to approve with foster parentcy
- Adres in our province

# Topic of conversation

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- At least one of the partners speaks Dutch
- Exercising self custody
- Sufficient accommodation
- As a couple, both partners need to go through the process
- Stability

# Screening & preparation



- Exchanging information
- Shared responsibility
- Profile customization
- Estimate based on competences in foster parenting, both by the department and by yourself



# Team



- 9 people
- Working part-time as a screener, part-time as a foster care companion
- Trained
- Meeting on a 2 weekly base
- Each traject is in duo, 2 people follow the candidate with supervision of the team



# Traject



- Information evening
- Entry form
- Request certificates - questionnaires
- Personal calls with candidates at the home and at the office
  - Throughout the formation process/trainings evenings-
- 5 formation/training evenings
- Child program
- Follow-on and profile interview
- Team meetings
- Final discussion with the candidates
- Reporting

# Personal calls with candidates at home and at the office

- Exploratory meeting
- Genogram Conversations
- family Talk
- profile Interview



# Formation evenings



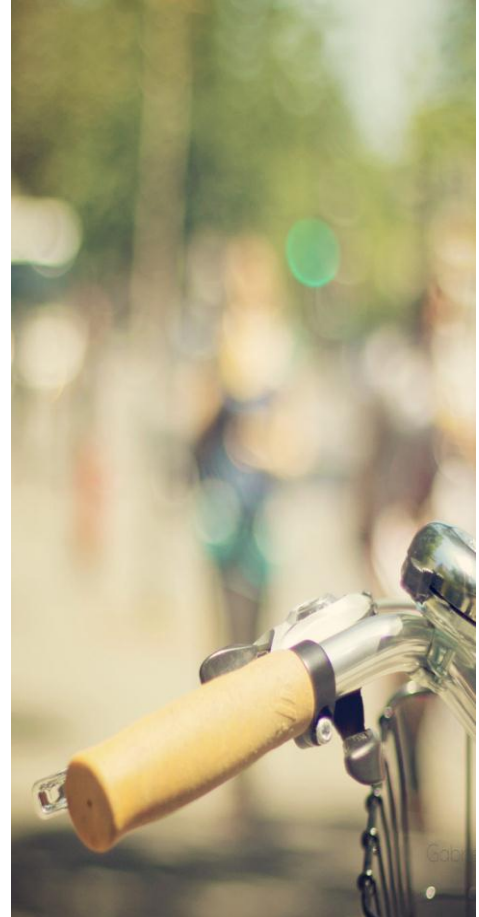
- formation evenings
  - Broad information on foster care
  - Importance of group dynamics
  - Security of the group
  - Given by A duo of a trained employer of the organization + foster parent



# Topics

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- ✓ Basic trust /attachment difficulties
- ✓ loss Experience
- ✓ Loyalty
- ✓ Work together
- ✓ Dealing with difficult behavior
- ✓ foster Care Panel



# Child Program



- Afternoon training for their own children
- Understand that providing foster care will have an affect on their own children but preparation of their children and being selective on the types of behaviors the candidate will foster, will help.



# Capabilities/competence

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1. Know how to communicate
2. Working together as a team /  
Know how to work with parents.
3. Know how to successfully manage  
behaviors of challenging children.
4. Know your home and family.  
Fostering will have an impact on the family
5. Temporality / Know how to manage a child's losses  
as well as your own.



# 1. Know how to communicate

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- As a foster parent you will be communicating with many different people. The list may include:
  - Birth family
  - The child
  - Teachers
  - Therapists
  - Socialworkers and other agency staff
  - Judges
  - ...



## 2. Working together as a team / Know how to work with parents.



- Working with many different professionals.
- Attend meetings with a group of people: It's important to be prepared to participate.
  - Foster parents have valuable insight into the child's needs and the group needs to hear what they have to say-
- Meeting the child's birth family
  - fostering or mentoring not only the child, often the whole family-
- Foster parents are a big part of the family reunification process
- Parents have a place, even if parents are not present
- Dealing with the child's emotions and behavior following visits with birth parents
- Be open without judging ...





### 3. Know how to successfully manage behaviors of challenging children.

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- Corporal punishment is **not allowed** to be used on children (in foster care).
- Understand that to manage the child's behavior, it may be important to **understand why child abuse occurs and the risk factors that play a part.**
- The job as a foster parent is **to build an attachment** with the foster child
- Maintain your cool as a foster parent. This can be tough as sometimes foster children push limits.
- Dealing with **the complex needs** (emotional, physical, etc.) due to the past abuse and neglect, **of children in their care**
- ...



## 4. Know your home and family.

### Fostering will have an impact on the family

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- There are several skills that successful foster parents need to master, such as patience and the ability to say good-bye,..
- It's important to prepare the children for foster care. All members of the immediate family, need to be on board with the decision, even if just temporary, fostering does shift the natural flow of your home.
- Know that not all of your family and friends will be supportive of your decision to become a foster family.
- Understand that fostering can and will have an impact on the marriage, will have an affect on your children
- ...

## 5. Temporality / Know how to manage a child's losses as well as your own.

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- Many times a child's grief and loss (grieving the loss of their home and family as well as the past abuse) can trigger responses in foster parents.
- Grief is very personal and each child will go through grief at his own pace. It's important to understand the grief and loss process in children so that we may be better able to meet their needs.
- There are several factors that may influence : The length or depth of the grief may be contributed to the type of trauma or even the child's developmental age.
- Part of being a foster parent is helping a child grieve her losses in a healthy way.
- Know that you may not be able to “complete” a foster care of the child you are fostering. (the child return to relatives, to his birth parents. There can be a breakdown...)

# Intake:

Making an opinion of the indication for fostering  
Making an opinion of the needs, abilities, ... of a  
particular child

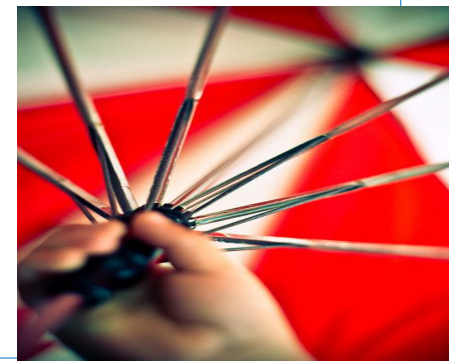
# Team



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# Procedure

- Apply for fostering: Information together and discuss in team: indication for foster care
- inquire
- feedback decision:
  - indication
  - prospects
  - issues for guidance
- Matching
- File presentation
- Acquaintance/meet each other
- Trial
- Evaluation
- Start placement



# Apply for fostering

Information together and discuss in team:  
indication for foster care

# Inquire

Parents :

- Motivation for fostering
- Information about fostering
- Who is their child
- Information about their situation related on the development of their child
- Who is supporting them
- Expectations for the fosterfamily
- Expectations for the guidance
- Expectations: the visit scheme, school, etc.
- How do they look to the future (perspective)
- ...





# Inquire

## Child:

- Relation between child and parents
- Significant persons
- Expectations for fostering
- Development: socio-emotionel-mentally
- Medical
- Method
  - Child (participative) observations
  - Child behavior checklist
  - Basis trust: Global list indication /Attachment difficulties screening inventory
  - ...

## Feedback decision: indication, prospects , issues for guidance

- Foster care is the good solution for this child?
- If so; What will/should foster provide to meet the needs of this child?
- Are there concerns for invasion and guidance ?
- Considerations for Composition from foster ?
- Considerations for further procedure-including, for example: the visit scheme, etc.
- Advice & foster care indication
- Balance of protective and risk factors. Considerations: Contacts, trial period,....
- Eventually Report (discrete integer language).
- The Report is for: Intake team, matching team, record performance & tool supervisor

# Matching

## Considerations:

- Which family cares what this child needs
  - Can this family handle the "problems" of the child
- Understand that providing foster care is being selective on the types of behaviors the family can help
- Can there be cooperation with **these** parents



# Matching

- Presentation of the child(situation) by the needs of the child (from intake)
- Strengths and difficulties of the foster families (from selection)
- Present:
  - Intakers
  - Screeners of respective families
  - Neutral Intaker / screener
  - Coordinator
  - Optional: resident child
- On matching team additional information according to the withhold foster home, can be added at the intake rapport.

# File presentation

## Acquaintance/meet each other

- The information we provide on the telephone : Age, sex, region. Issues. Frame arrangement (short-long, ...)  
We let time to prospective foster family to indicate whether they are willing to file performance
- File presentation: Report is not released in full, but we give a clenched decision which concerns, work points in do - language are displayed: the foster family knows what he will be asked depending on the needs of the child and its context.
- Introductory meeting with parents and foster parents (preferably in the presence of someone who has the confidence of the parents)
- Introductory meeting with the child: Preferably at the place where the child resides



Trial period  
Evaluation  
Start placement

- Trial period: customized, according to the situation, age of the child,...
- Evaluation with all the significant parties concerned on the placement
- Start placement

