



## FOSTER CALGARY

The Calgary and District Foster Parents Association

# A Village to Turn to

At Foster Calgary, we believe it takes a village to raise a child. That's why we are passionate about building strong communities where children can grow up happy and healthy. We seek out and partner with foster families to bring foster children the safety, stability, and kindness they need to reach their potential.

We call on compassionate people from all walks of life to temporarily care for children in and around Calgary who are unable to live with their birth families. Foster parents play a crucial role in helping children overcome trauma, build their confidence and resilience, and generally thrive in life. Foster Calgary supports foster children to retain their cultural values and identities while they are in care and reunite them with their biological families whenever possible.

At Foster Calgary, a part of the Calgary and District Foster Parents Association, we provide support for foster parents in Calgary and the surrounding areas of Airdrie, Banff, Black Diamond, Bragg Creek, Canmore, Carstairs, Chestermere, Claresholm, Cochrane, Exshaw, Okotoks, Strathmore, and Vulcan.



Our Foster Mentor Program had **65** program referrals in 2019.

Foster Calgary has been using the **Trauma-Informed Care model**

for over **5** years

to help foster parents care for children with trauma.

### Our combined services include:

- Screening and recruiting new foster parents
- Training for new foster parents to understand and respond to children's trauma, using an evidence-based Trauma-Informed Care model
  - Organizing activities for children in care and their foster families
  - Connecting new foster parents with mentors who can help them to navigate every step of the fostering journey, including working with caseworkers, teachers, and medical professionals
  - Equipping foster parents with valuable real-life training
  - Supporting foster children to ensure their emotional, educational, and physical needs are met. Each foster child has an individualized care plan
  - Supporting Indigenous children or children with diverse ethnic backgrounds to retain their cultural identity through connection with their culture

# Our Fostering Programs

## Full-time foster caregiver

Our full-time foster parents temporarily take on the care of a child, from newborns up to the age of 18, who can't live at home with their biological families. They support and nurture them, with the goal of returning them to their families of origin wherever possible.

## Respite caregiver

Respite caregivers take in children for a weekend or longer to give their full-time foster parents a break. They can provide a child or young person with somewhere to stay in an emergency. All respite providers are licensed to care for children up to the age of 18 and must be available at least one week-end per month. The process of becoming a respite caregiver is the same as a full-time caregiver, but respite caregivers are recruited on an as-needed basis.



Founded in 1968, the Calgary and District Foster Parents Association has been supporting foster and kinship parents in Calgary and the surrounding areas for over **50** years.

On a **yearly basis**, the Calgary and District Foster Parents Association supports an average of **140** families, not including those in our Mentor Program.

Aside from the summer months, the Calgary and District Foster Parents Association plans **monthly** community events to help foster parents integrate into cultural and community events.