

Foster Parent Training and Support Assessment

Survey Results

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INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY

FOSTER PARENT TRAINING AND SUPPORT ASSESSMENT

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2003

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Number of Responses: 85
Response rate: 11% (85 of 760)

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Note - Open-ended questions (Q17, Q19) are not listed

**CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
SUNY RESEARCH FOUNDATION
BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE**

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY**Question 1 through 6 Demographic Information****N=85**

<u>Text of Question</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
1 County of residence:		
New York City	61%	45
New York State (non-NYC)	36%	27
Out of state	3%	2
Not listed (not included in calculating above percentages)		11
2 How long were you a foster parent?		
Less than one year	17%	14
One to three years	27%	22
Four to six years	14%	12
Seven to nine years	10%	8
Ten or more years	33%	27
3 How many agencies have you worked with as a foster parent?		
One	76%	63
Two to three	23%	19
Six or more	1%	1
4 With which type of agency were you a foster parent?		
Private agency	29%	21
Local DSS	71%	51
5 How many foster children have been placed in your home?		
None	6%	5
One or two	46%	39
Three to five	14%	12
Six to ten	19%	16
Eleven or more	15%	13
6a Did your agency provide a written description of: Your roles/responsibilities?		
Yes	93%	78
No	7%	6
6b Your legal rights?		
Yes	84%	67
No	16%	13
6c The legal rights of children in care?		
Yes	89%	73
No	11%	9

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY**Question 7 Foster parent roles/responsibilities (ranked by response percentage)****N=85**

<u>What are the five most important foster parent roles/responsibilities?</u>	<u>% (N)</u>
1 Providing safety for a child	85% (72)
6 Loving and nurturing a child	82% (70)
10 Providing support, guidance and discipline	68% (58)
9 Being a role model for a child	42% (36)
2 Helping a child with loss and separation	41% (35)
7 Helping a child progress in his development	40% (34)
11 Teaching the child daily living skills	31% (26)
5 Helping a child develop or maintain contact/attachment with birth family	24% (20)
14 Preparing a child to return home or be adopted	24% (20)
13 Being an advocate for a child	18% (15)
16 Preparing youth for self-sufficiency	15% (13)
17 Adopting a child if reunification is not possible	13% (11)
15 Being a continuing resource to a child & birth family following reunification or adoption	12% (10)
8 Helping a child obtain necessary services (e.g. transporting)	08% (07)
4 Participating in permanency planning	06% (05)
12 Modeling parenting skills	04% (03)
3 Being a mentor to birth parents	01% (01)

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY

Question 8 through 11

<u>Text of Question</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
8 Did you and your agency agree on your responsibilities?		
Yes	86%	72
No	2%	2
Unsure	12%	10
9a Were you aware of your legal rights as they pertain to: Service plan reviews		
Yes	78%	57
No	22%	16
9b Court hearings/appearances		
Yes	78%	58
No	22%	16
9c Child removals from your home		
Yes	67%	52
No	33%	26
9d Adoptions		
Yes	78%	58
No	22%	16
9e Fair Hearings		
Yes	65%	46
No	35%	25
10 How did your agency provide on-going training? (select all that apply)		
Annual regional foster/adoptive parent training seminar	58%	49
Directly provided in-service training	46%	39
Videos or teleconferences	17%	14
Community based workshops	37%	31
No training was offered	11%	9
Other	5%	4
11 Were the trainings you attended helpful in carrying out your roles/responsibilities?		
Yes, to a great extent	52%	39
Yes, somewhat	43%	32
No, not at all	5%	4

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY**Question 12 Training Interest (ranked by percentage expressing interest in training)**

Please indicate your interest in attending training on these topics.	1 Already Attended <u>Training</u>	2 No <u>Interest</u>	3 Interested <u>in training</u>	(N)
36 Suicide & depression	13% (7)	20% (11)	67% (37)	(55)
21 Legal issues	25% (14)	13% (7)	63% (35)	(56)
26 Oppositional defiant behavior	26% (15)	14% (8)	60% (35)	(58)
30 Running away	27% (16)	19% (11)	54% (32)	(59)
3 Attachment disorder	27% (14)	20% (10)	53% (27)	(51)
35 Substance-exposed infants & children	28% (16)	19% (11)	53% (31)	(58)
13 Developmentally disabled children	25% (14)	25% (14)	51% (29)	(57)
33 Stress management	36% (21)	14% (8)	51% (30)	(59)
38 Violence in schools	26% (15)	23% (13)	51% (29)	(57)
18 Foster parents' rights	45% (28)	5% (3)	50% (31)	(62)
17 Foster parents & school problems	37% (22)	14% (8)	49% (29)	(59)
25 Mental health system	24% (13)	27% (15)	49% (27)	(55)
6 Child development	50% (31)	2% (1)	48% (30)	(62)
11 Allegations of abuse & neglect	46% (28)	7% (4)	48% (29)	(61)
16 Impact of fostering on your family	42% (25)	10% (6)	48% (29)	(60)
23 Lying & stealing	41% (26)	11% (7)	48% (31)	(64)
8 Children affected by HIV/AIDS	25% (14)	28% (16)	47% (27)	(57)
15 Emotionally disturbed children	32% (18)	21% (12)	47% (27)	(57)
28 Parenting the sexually abused child	35% (21)	18% (11)	47% (28)	(60)
31 Self-esteem	42% (25)	10% (6)	47% (28)	(59)
4 Attention deficit disorder	29% (16)	25% (14)	46% (26)	(56)
12 Anger management	43% (23)	11% (6)	46% (25)	(54)
9 Communication skills	50% (31)	6% (4)	44% (27)	(62)
19 Gangs and cults	16% (9)	40% (22)	44% (24)	(55)

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY

Question 12 Training Interest (continued)

Please indicate your interest in attending training on these topics.	1 Already Attended <u>Training</u>	2 No <u>Interest</u>	3 Interested <u>in training</u>	<u>(N)</u>
34 Substance & alcohol abuse	33% (18)	24% (13)	44% (24)	(55)
32 Separation & loss	50% (30)	7% (4)	43% (26)	(60)
1 Adoption	48% (32)	12% (8)	39% (26)	(66)
5 Caseworker & foster parent relationships	46% (28)	15% (9)	39% (24)	(61)
7 Child/family visits	48% (30)	13% (8)	39% (24)	(62)
14 Effective discipline techniques	52% (32)	8% (5)	39% (24)	(61)
20 Independent living issues	32% (18)	29% (16)	39% (22)	(56)
2 ASFA time frames	23% (9)	40% (16)	38% (15)	(40)
29 Permanency	35% (19)	27% (15)	38% (21)	(55)
37 Talking about sex with your child	43% (25)	19% (11)	38% (22)	(58)
10 Confidentiality	49% (28)	14% (8)	37% (21)	(57)
22 Life books	27% (14)	37% (19)	35% (18)	(51)
27 Parenting the gay or lesbian teen	11% (6)	54% (29)	35% (19)	(54)
24 Managing medications	36% (19)	32% (17)	32% (17)	(53)
39 Working with birth families	39% (23)	29% (17)	32% (19)	(59)

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY

Question 13, 14, 15 and 18

<u>Text of Question</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
13 What is the best time to offer training?		
Weekday evenings	53%	38
Weekday days	18%	13
Weekend evenings	7%	5
Weekend days	22%	16
14 Would you have been interested in on-line computer based training?		
Yes	54%	44
No	46%	37
15 What can the agency do to encourage training attendance? (select all that apply)		
Use foster parent input to determine training topics	54%	45
Offer child care	44%	37
Offer refreshments/meals	32%	27
Use foster parents as co-trainers	36%	30
Reimburse travel expenses	36%	30
Make it practical & useful	58%	49
Link board rate increases to training attendance	19%	16
18 When a foster child left your home, did your agency provide your family any of the following? (select all that apply) N=84 (first 4 categories - percentages reflect N=69)		
Adequate notice/time to prepare for separation	42%	29
Grief counseling	4%	3
Follow up contact with your family	20%	14
Post placement feedback interviews	12%	8
NA - A foster child did not leave my home	18%	15

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY**Question 16 Services/Supports (ranked by mean score)**

<u>Text of Question</u>	<u>1</u> Very Dissatisfied	<u>2</u> Dis- Satisfied	<u>3</u> Neutral	<u>4</u> Satisfied	<u>5</u> Very Satisfied	<u>Mean (N)</u>	<u>NA</u> % (N)
1 Caseworker contact in person	8% (6)	13% (10)	12% (9)	36% (27)	31% (23)	3.68 (75)	05 (04)
2 Caseworker contact by phone	11% (8)	10% (7)	11% (8)	40% (29)	28% (20)	3.64 (72)	05 (04)
21 Information on adoption	6% (4)	8% (5)	25% (16)	38% (24)	23% (15)	3.64 (64)	09 (06)
7 Foster parent support group	9% (5)	11% (6)	25% (14)	38% (21)	18% (10)	3.45 (56)	21 (15)
5 Day care for foster child	7% (4)	11% (6)	33% (18)	27% (15)	22% (12)	3.45 (55)	19 (13)
3 Guidance on working with families	5% (3)	19% (12)	25% (16)	33% (21)	19% (12)	3.42 (64)	11 (08)
6 24 hour crisis services	11% (6)	9% (5)	36% (20)	25% (14)	18% (10)	3.31 (55)	18 (10)
8 Newsletter for foster parents	9% (5)	20% (11)	24% (13)	31% (17)	16% (09)	3.25 (55)	20 (14)
18 Referrals to appropriate services	7% (4)	19% (11)	29% (17)	37% (22)	8% (5)	3.22 (59)	13 (09)
10 Involvement with permanency planning	11% (6)	11% (6)	41% (23)	21% (12)	16% (9)	3.21 (56)	18 (12)
4 Respite care	4% (2)	18% (10)	45% (25)	22% (12)	11% (6)	3.18 (55)	18 (10)
9 Ongoing recognition in community	8% (4)	18% (9)	35% (18)	31% (16)	8% (4)	3.14 (51)	22 (15)
19 Access to NYS/OCFS regional office staff	10% (5)	20% (10)	27% (13)	31% (15)	12% (6)	3.14 (49)	23 (15)
15 Transportation	17% (8)	17% (8)	30% (14)	19% (9)	17% (8)	3.02 (47)	33 (23)
20 Child's contact with law guardian	18% (10)	19% (11)	25% (14)	21% (12)	18% (10)	3.02 (57)	17 (12)
16 Timely evaluations for child service needs	18% (11)	22% (13)	20% (12)	25% (15)	18% (09)	2.97 (62)	07 (10)
13 Counseling services for foster parents	16% (8)	16% (8)	31% (15)	29% (14)	8% (4)	2.96 (49)	28 (19)
11 Reimbursed for special costs	18% (09)	18% (9)	27% (14)	24% (12)	14% (7)	2.98 (51)	28 (20)
17 Child's full history (e.g. emotional, medical)	23% (15)	22% (14)	15% (10)	22% (14)	18% (12)	2.91 (65)	12 (09)
12 Liability insurance	14% (4)	17% (5)	48% (14)	10% (3)	10% (3)	2.86 (29)	55 (35)
14 Mentoring or buddy system	18% (7)	18% (7)	45% (18)	13% (5)	08% (3)	2.75 (40)	38 (24)

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY

Question 16 Services/Supports ranked by Satisfaction Levels*

*Percentage represents combined satisfied and very satisfied responses

Service/support	Pct Satisfied
Caseworker contact by phone	68%
Caseworker contact in person	67%
Information on adoption	61%
Foster parent support group	56%
Guidance on working with families	52%
Day care for foster child	49%
Newsletter for foster parents	47%
Referrals to appropriate services	45%
24 hour crisis services	43%
Access to OCFS regional office staff	43%
Child's full history	40%
Timely evaluations for child service needs	40%
Ongoing recognition in community	39%
Reimbursed for special costs	38%
Involvement with permanency planning	37%
Counseling services for foster parents	37%
Child's contact with law guardian	36%
Transportation	36%
Respite care	33%
Mentoring or buddy system	21%
Liability insurance	20%

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY

Question 20 and 21 (Q21 ranked by response percentage)

20	Did you ever ask to have a child removed from your home?	<u>%</u>	<u>(N)</u>
	Yes	44	36
	No	56	46
21	If yes, why did you request that a child be removed from your home? (select all that apply)	<u>% (N)</u>	
	4 Severe behavior problems	61%	(22)
	11 Destructive behavior	50%	(18)
	12 Lack of caseworker contact & support	28%	(10)
	5 Mental health issues	19%	(7)
	3 Inappropriate sexual behavior	17%	(6)
	13 Caseworker attitude	14%	(5)
	16 Birth parent threat to family	14%	(5)
	19 Allegations of abuse & neglect	14%	(5)
	6 Criminal activity	11%	(4)
	7 Substance abuse	11%	(4)
	1 Foster family illness/crisis	08%	(3)
	10 Fire safety	08%	(3)
	14 Delays in board payment or other reimbursements	08%	(3)
	2 Foster family move	06%	(2)
	8 Child's medical needs	06%	(2)
	17 Lack of appropriate or timely services	06%	(2)
	18 Pregnancy of foster family member	03%	(1)
	9 Cross cultural placement issues	03%	(1)
	15 Lack of respite	03%	(1)
	20 Pregnancy of foster child	0%	

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY

Question 22 and 23

<u>Text of Question</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
22 What could have helped you keep that child in your home? (N=41)		
Respite	5%	2
More intensive treatment for the child	39%	16
More contact by caseworker	29%	12
More practical help/advice from agency	59%	24
A higher board rate	24%	10
More information up front about child's needs & behavior	54%	22
Fewer children in the home so I could manage this child	7%	3
Nothing	17%	7
23 Do you feel a foster/adoptive parent support group would have been beneficial to you?		
Yes, and I attended one	38%	24
Yes, but there was none nearby	41%	26
No	21%	13

INACTIVE FOSTER PARENT SURVEY

Question 24 Reasons for voluntary closing (ranked by response percentage) N=47

If your certified foster home was voluntarily closed, for what reasons did you request the closing?

Reason	Percent	N
Adoption of foster children	38%	18
Dissatisfaction with agency	17%	8
Family illness/death	13%	6
Age-related retirement	9%	4
Foster family move	6%	3
Foster parent going to work full-time	6%	3
End of foster child placement	6%	3
Difficulty of children	6%	3
Other	6%	3
Problems working with birth family	4%	2
Allegations of abuse or neglect	4%	2
Liability issues	2%	1

APPENDIX

SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

Foster Parent Training and Support Assessment Inactive Foster Parent Survey

1. County of residence: _____

2. How long were you a foster parent?

- Less than one year Seven to nine years
 One to three years Ten or more years
 Four to six years

Instructions:

Please **COMPLETELY DARKEN** the circle corresponding to your answer. A dark pen will produce the most accurate results. **DO NOT** staple. **Return by September 15th.** Thank you!

3. How many agencies have you worked with as a foster parent?

- One Four to five
 Two to three Six or more

4. With which type of agency were you a foster parent?

- Private agency Local/DSS

5. How many foster children have been placed in your home?

- None Six to ten
 One or two Eleven or more
 Three to five

6. Did your agency provide a written description of:

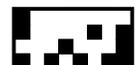
- Your roles/responsibilities Yes No
Your legal rights Yes No
The legal rights of children in care Yes No

7. What are the five most important foster parent roles/responsibilities? (select five choices)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Providing safety for a child | <input type="radio"/> Being a role model for a child |
| <input type="radio"/> Helping a child with loss and separation | <input type="radio"/> Providing support, guidance and discipline |
| <input type="radio"/> Being a mentor to birth parents | <input type="radio"/> Teaching the child daily living skills |
| <input type="radio"/> Participating in permanency planning | <input type="radio"/> Modeling parenting skills |
| <input type="radio"/> Helping a child develop or maintain contact/attachment with birth family | <input type="radio"/> Being an advocate for a child |
| <input type="radio"/> Loving and nurturing a child | <input type="radio"/> Preparing a child to return home or be adopted |
| <input type="radio"/> Helping a child progress in his development | <input type="radio"/> Being a continuing resource to a child & birth family following reunification or adoption |
| <input type="radio"/> Helping a child obtain necessary services (e.g. transporting) | <input type="radio"/> Preparing youth for self-sufficiency |
| <input type="radio"/> Adopting a child if reunification is not possible | Other (specify) _____ |

8. Did you and your agency agree on your responsibilities?

- Yes No Unsure



8a. If you did not agree, what were the areas of disagreement? (print in space below)

9. Were you aware of your legal rights as they pertain to:

- Service plan reviews Yes No Adoptions Yes No
 Court hearings/appearances Yes No Fair hearings Yes No
 Child removals from your home Yes No

10. How did your agency provide on-going training? (select all that apply)

- Annual regional foster/adoptive parent training seminar Community based workshops
 Directly provided in-service training No training was offered
 Videos or teleconferences Other (specify) _____

11. Were the trainings you attended helpful in carrying out your roles/responsibilities?

- Yes, to a great extent Yes, somewhat No, not at all

12. Please indicate which training topics would have interested you when you were a foster parent.

Please completely darken appropriate bubble.	Already attended training	No Interest	Interested in training		Already attended training	No Interest	Interested in training
• Adoption	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Legal issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• ASFA time frames	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Life books	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Attachment disorder	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Lying & stealing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Attention Deficit Disorder	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Managing medications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Caseworker & foster parent relationships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Mental health system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Child development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Oppositional defiant behavior	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Child/family visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Parenting the gay or lesbian teen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Children affected by HIV/AIDS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Parenting the sexually abused child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Communication skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Permanency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Confidentiality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Running away	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Allegations of abuse and neglect	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Self-esteem	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Anger Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Separation & loss	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Developmentally disabled children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Stress management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Effective discipline techniques	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Substance & alcohol abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Emotionally disturbed children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Substance-exposed infants & children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Impact of fostering on your family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Suicide & depression	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Foster parents & school problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Talking about sex with your child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Foster parents' rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Violence in schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Gangs and cults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	• Working with birth families	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Independent living issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				

Other (specify) _____

34977



18. When a foster child left your home, did your agency provide your family any of the following? (select all that apply)

- Adequate notice/time to prepare for separation
- Post placement feedback interviews
- Grief counseling
- A foster child did not leave my home
- Follow up contact with your family

19. How could the agency have better helped you with separation and loss when a foster child left your home? (print in space below)

20. Did you ever ask to have a child removed from your home? Yes No

21. If yes, why did you request that a child be removed from your home? (select all that apply)

- Foster family illness/crisis
- Fire safety
- Foster family move
- Destructive behavior
- Inappropriate sexual behavior
- Lack of caseworker contact & support
- Severe behavior problems
- Caseworker attitude
- Mental health issues
- Delays in board payment or other reimbursements
- Criminal activity
- Lack of respite
- Substance abuse
- Birth parent threat to family safety
- Child's medical needs
- Lack of appropriate or timely services
- Cross cultural placement issues
- Pregnancy of foster family member
- Allegations of abuse or neglect
- Pregnancy of foster child
- Other (specify) _____

22. What could have helped you keep that child in your home? (select all that apply)

- Respite
- More information up front about child's needs and behavior
- More intensive treatment for the child
- Fewer children in the home so I could manage this child
- More contact by caseworker
- Nothing
- More practical help/advice from agency
- Other (specify) _____
- A higher board rate

23. Do you feel a foster/adoptive parent support group would have been beneficial to you?

- Yes, and I attended one
- Yes, but there was none nearby
- No

24. If your certified foster home was voluntarily closed, for what reasons did you request the closing?

- Adoption of foster children
- Foster parent going to work full-time
- Allegations of abuse or neglect
- Age-related retirement
- End of foster child placement
- Dissatisfaction with agency
- Family illness/death
- Difficulty of children
- Liability issues
- Foster family move
- Problems working with birth family
- Other _____

Comments: _____

