

Q. *Isn't it hard to give up a child once you become attached?*

A.

Ω **Foster care is temporary. From the time a child enters our home, you know that the child will be leaving, hopefully returning to parents or relatives. Children love and have strong bonds to their parents, no matter what happened. Foster parents help the child stay connected to his/her family. Still...it is difficult to help a child leave, probably the hardest part of the job. Loving the child and sending the child back to a healthier family are both important parts of the foster parent's job. However, if you want a child to be a permanent member of your family, you may want to consider adoption. Feel free to explore your interest in both foster care and adoption with the social worker.**

Q. *Do I have some choice in the kinds of children who come into my home?*

A.

Ω **Yes, families indicate the sex, age and characteristics of children who best match the skills and strengths of their family. Whenever the SJIB/Family Guardianship is considering to place a child in your home, the child and the circumstances of placement will be described to you and you will have the right to determine if you will open you home to that child.**



A.T.H. Illidge Road # 117,
FX Complex, Unit C
Madame Estate

Phone: (599) 542-3449
Fax: (599) 542-3472
Email: sjib@sintmaarten.net

Foster Care Fact Sheet



**Foundation Judiciary
Institutes Windward Islands**

Section: Family Guardianship

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Here are some facts about foster parenting:

Q. *What are the basic tasks of foster parents?*

A.

- Ω **To protect and nurture children, including providing a safe, healthy environment with unconditional positive support.**
- Ω **To meet the development needs of children by building self-esteem, supporting cultural identity, providing positive guidance, using appropriate discipline, supporting intellectual/educational growth, and encouraging positive social relationships.**
- Ω **To support relation between children and youth and their birth families**
- Ω **To promote permanency planning leading first to family reunification or other safe and nurturing relations intended to last a lifetime.**
- Ω **To participate as an essential effective member of a professional team.**

Q. *What are some of the steps I have to take to become a foster parent?*

A.

- Ω **Attend an intake as well as an orientation meeting.**
- Ω **Participate in a FOSTERCARE training (required of every adult caregiver in your home).**
- Ω **Provide 3 personal references (if you have school age children, we will need a reference from your child's school).**

- Ω **Document that your family has sufficient income to meet it's needs and ensure the security and stability of the household independent of foster care payments.**
- Ω **Participate with a social worker in at least three consultations in your home to mutually asses your family's strengths and the kinds and ages of children your family can care for best.**
- Ω **Complete a home health and safety evaluation.**

Q. *How many children can I have in my home?*

A.

- Ω **Foster parents may have up to 6 children, including their own children, as long as there is a bed for each child and adequate space for children in same-sex bedrooms (for children over the age of 3).**

Q. *For what type of children does the SJIB/Family guardian most need foster homes?*

A.

- Ω **There is need for foster parents for children from birth to 18 years, but in particular for children of 12 years and over. We also are especially looking for foster homes with caregivers who can remain at home with infants and younger children, particularly children with a handicap or children who have medical needs. We also need homes for sibling groups so that we do not have to separate brothers and sisters at a time of family crisis.**