

Your Journey to OzChild

5 easy steps to becoming a carer

Becoming a foster carer can transform lives, the child or young person in your care, yours and your family. It is incredibly rewarding for everyone.

We guide all our prospective carers through a thorough recruitment process to ensure we provide safe and loving homes for children and young people. Our recruitment process is based on state wide standardised assessment and training guidelines from the Victorian Government.

The amount of time it takes to become an accredited foster carer varies, but on average it takes anywhere between 3 to 7 months, and we are with you every step of the way.



ozchild.org.au



1800 954 550



1. LET'S MEET

Come along to one of our information nights, or if that's tricky for your diary our recruitment team will come to you, offering a real one to one opportunity to find out all you can about the difference becoming a foster carer will make.



2. GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

The recruitment process is about sharing information. It's important for us to get to know you, and for you to ask us all your fostering questions. We will guide you through the process of obtaining references, a medical report, working with children and police checks for all relevant adults in your household. We will also discuss preparing your life story work for your assessment stage.



3. TRAINING TIME

We offer flexible training times and locations allowing you to complete the 16 hour Shared Lives training required for all foster carers to undertake before accreditation.

Facilitated by experienced OzChild trainers and supported by current carers, this is a chance to learn more about caring for vulnerable children in your home and leave you feeling confident in your role as a foster carer.



4. IN-HOME ASSESSMENTS

An accredited assessor will visit you at home to do a full environment check, making sure it's safe and secure, whilst reviewing your life story work and application with you to finalise your profile for your panel review, the final step in your application to become a foster carer.



5. PANEL AND ACCREDITATION

Your accredited assessor presents your household profile to the panellists, made up of professionals from the child welfare sector, including one member from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Once accreditation is granted by the panel, you will be asked to sign a Conduct Agreement.

Welcome TO OUR OZCHILD FAMILY

Congratulations! You could be just days away from your first placement.

An OzChild Carer Support Worker will visit you to chat about all the support and ongoing training available and help you become fully prepared for your first child and/or young person.