

BECOME A TFCO FOSTER CARER

with OzChild



TFCO
Treatment Foster Care Oregon

 **ozchild**

WHAT IS TFCO? ▾

OzChild have introduced an evidence based foster care program for the first time in Victoria. OzChild needs carers in the south east who are ready for a new kind of thinking.

The program is an internationally proven behaviour change program that provides intensive support for children aged 7-11 years over a 9-12 month period.

This program has been successful for over 30 years in countries including the UK, US and New Zealand in creating long-term positive outcomes for children.





Caring for a child 7-11 years old



Short term 9-12 month program



24/7 support for carers



An internationally proven model to improve behaviours of children with serious behavioural and emotional difficulties.

WHO CAN BECOME A TFCO CARER? ▾

Definitely no one size fits all but we are looking for individuals/couples who:

- > Demonstrate sufficient maturity or life experience
- > Have experience in dealing with children with complex behaviours
- > Have a suitable living space including a spare bedroom
- > Have a good support network to support the child
- > Are flexible to be available for the child's needs
- > Have the ability to champion positive change for a young person
- > Live within an hour of the OzChild Dandenong office



WHY IT WORKS? ▾

TFCO positively influences children's behaviour by teaching ways to:

- » regulate emotions
- » develop interpersonal skills
- » encourage participation in positive social activities within their community.

TFCO is an evidence-based model with 30 years of success around the world. On completion of the program, the child is reunited with their birth family or long term foster carers who also receive continued support once the child leaves the TFCO program.

TFCO is a proven therapeutic foster care option for children in residential care (group homes).



TFCO TEAM ▾

TFCO Program Supervisor

Responsible for the team and the work of the foster carers, including all decision making and planning

Carer Supporter and Recruiter

Recruits, assesses, trains, and supports foster carers with daily contact

Family Therapist

Works with the family to plan for the child's return

Individual Therapist

Works with the child to develop social skills and ways to balance their emotions



The TFCO team is a group of highly qualified specialists that will provide 24/7 support and training so you feel 100% ready to care for the child.

Skills Coach

Connects the child to community activities and supports the learning of social skills

School Supporter

Provides specialist support to the child and their school



WHO NEEDS IT? ▾

For some children in the out of home care system, the effects of childhood abuse, neglect and being in the system have made it difficult to manage their feelings, thoughts and behaviour.

These challenging behaviours put those children at risk of being excluded from the benefits of a stable family environment, creating a cycle of worsening behaviour and negative outcomes.

TFCO aims to support these children by providing therapeutic support within a family environment.



PROCESS OF INTERVENTION ▾



- » Child moves to TFCO carer's home
- » Team leader and Carer Supporter work with the foster carer (*ongoing throughout placement*)



- » Team Leader designs plans and foster carer implements them
- » Carer Supporter checks in daily and carers attend weekly support meetings
- » Child works with the Individual Therapist and Skills Coach (*weekly*)
- » Family Therapist works with child's biological family or aftercare family



- » Child increases time spent with biological family/aftercare family
- » Transition home (*after 9-12 months*)
- » Biological or aftercare family continue to work with the Family Therapist for approximately three months after transition home

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR TFCO CARER ▾

Respite

Respite carers provide occasional care for children within the TFCO program. Respite carers implement the same program as regular carers, including using behaviour intervention charts and strategies, and taking check-in phone calls from the Carer Supporter following each respite day.

Benefits

- » Tax free reimbursement of \$75,000 for a 12-month placement
- » Able to receive Family Tax Benefit via Centrelink (depending on partners income)



HOW TO BECOME A TFCO CARER

the process ▼

Contact Us ▼

Contact us on 03 9212 3947 or tfco@ozchild.org.au

Information Session

Attend an information session to hear more about TFCO and see if it suits you and your household.

Complete Application

Application forms include gathering your household information, availability to foster, and completion of health checks.

Training And Background Checks

Police check and Working With Children checks are mandatory.

You will need to participate in a two day foster care training, and a two day TFCO specific training.

Assessment

All enquirers participate in assessment interviews: These discuss the:

- » the enquirer's upbringing
- » how they would parent a child
- » stress-management
- » support network
- » ability to keep their home safe from abuse

Children and other adults residing in your home will also be interviewed.

Accreditation ▼



Once the assessment is completed and written up, carers are accredited at panels held monthly. They may begin fostering promptly after accreditation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Contact our team for more information
on how to become a TFCO foster carer

 03 9212 3947

 tfco@ozchild.org.au

 ozchild.org.au/tfco



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