

Adoption Conversations

8 CONVERSATION CARDS ABOUT
ADOPTION FROM FOSTER CARE

Adoption Conversations

WHY ARE YOU ADOPTING?

Not everyone is called to adopt, but we feel prepared to open our hearts and home to a child needing a forever family.

There are over 120,000 children in the United States who are legally available for adoption, and we want to make a difference.

wait
no
more

Adoption Conversations

WILL IT BE EXPENSIVE?

Adopting from foster care has little to no cost. Parents who adopt from foster care complete training, background checks, and home studies. Some licensing agencies even reimburse the costs of things such as getting fingerprinted.

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Adoption Conversations

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The process of adopting from foster care varies by state. On average, it takes 6-9 months to become approved as adoptive parents.

In the meantime, adoptive parents take classes, fill out paperwork, and prepare the home for future children.

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Adoption Conversations

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT KIDS ALREADY IN YOUR HOME?

Our family is on this adoption journey together. We are all learning empathy, patience, and selflessness. We know that family is not always defined by blood.

The children in our home will have a new sibling or multiple siblings. We ask that you treat our adopted child the same way you would treat a biological child.

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Adoption Conversations

CAN THE BIRTH PARENTS TAKE THEM BACK?

Once adopted, the child legally becomes a member of their adoptive family. Both the child and their adoptive family can rest assured that the adoption is permanent and cannot be reversed.

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Adoption Conversations

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BIRTH PARENTS?

Biological parents are provided plans and steps to follow to help them reunify safely with their children. Unfortunately, they were unable and/or unwilling to do so. Therefore, their parental rights were terminated.

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Adoption Conversations

CAN THE CHILD STILL HAVE CONTACT WITH THEIR BIOLOGICAL PARENT(S)?

Every situation varies, and there are a lot of different factors. We recognize that the biological relationship is important. But we also want what is best for the child.

We are prayerfully considering what that might look like in the future.

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Adoption Conversations

WHY ARE YOU ADOPTING FROM FOSTER CARE?

There are multiple types of adoption, including private adoption, international adoption, and adoption from foster care. Our family prayerfully considered what our journey would be. We felt that we wanted to be a forever family for a child in our own backyard.

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Foster Care Conversations

8 CONVERSATION CARDS ABOUT **FOSTERING**

Foster Care Conversations

HOW CAN I BE PRAYING FOR YOU

All foster families need support from friends and family. Please pray for our family and consider practical ways you would like to help, such as providing a meal, delivering groceries, or helping with yard work.

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Foster Care Conversations

WHAT WERE THE STEPS TO BECOME A FOSTER HOME?

Before becoming licensed, we attended training classes to learn about the foster care system, trauma, and other important topics.

We filled out lots of paperwork and prepared our home for a safety inspection (home study). We were interviewed and asked about our parenting style and family dynamics.

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Foster Care Conversations

WHAT ARE WAYS I CAN HELP SUPPORT YOU?

- Deliver a meal (I can tell you preferences/allergies)
- Help with house work or yard work
- Send an encouraging text
- Pray for everyone involved
- Run errands or go grocery shopping
- Offer tutoring
- Support the biological children, too
- Help drive for appointments and activities
- Facilitate a foster care ministry/ support group
- Become licensed to provide respite support

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Foster Care Conversations

WHY ARE YOU FOSTERING

There are over 400,000 children in foster care in the United States. They have been abused, neglected, or abandoned, and they need a safe and loving place to live while their birth family seeks help. We have space in our home and in our hearts to welcome a child.

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Foster Care Conversations

HOW LONG DOES A CHILD STAY WITH YOU?

Each child or sibling group has their own permanency plan. The goal is often reunification with the birth parents. We provide a safe and loving home environment for a child while their birth parents work to get their family back together. The child or sibling group might stay with us for a day, a month, or a year. Each situation is different.

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Foster Care Conversations

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT THE CHILDREN ALREADY IN YOUR HOME?

Our family is on this fostering journey together. We are all learning empathy, patience, and selflessness. We know that family is not always defined by blood.

Our family wants to help children in foster care experience a safe and loving home environment while their birth parents receive help and support.

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Foster Care Conversations

DOES IT COST MONEY TO BE A FOSTER PARENT?

There is a nominal fee to the agency to cover the background check and paperwork. The cost varies per state but can range from approximately \$100 to \$500. We were also responsible for the cost of safety items, such as a fire extinguisher. We receive monthly financial compensation to help care for the children in our home.

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Foster Care Conversations

ARE YOU GOING TO ADOPT FROM FOSTER CARE?

There are over 120,000 children in the United States who are legally available for adoption today. As a foster family, we advocate for safe reunification, if possible.

Consider the call to adopt from foster care as God leads you and your family.

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Support Conversations

8 CONVERSATION CARDS
FOR SUPPORTING
FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

Support Conversations

HOW CAN I SUPPORT A FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILY?

There are countless ways you can be a blessing to foster and adoptive families. The most important thing you can do is ask them directly. Each family has unique needs.

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Support Conversations

CAN I HELP WATCH THE KIDS?

Each state has different rules about who can provide substitute care for children in foster care and for how long. If that's something you're willing to provide, be open and ask the family. There may be some things you need to do to become approved for substitute care, but it will be a huge help to the family.

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Support Conversations

HOW CAN I HELP AROUND HOLIDAYS/BIRTHDAYS?

Special events are important to children in foster care. Something as simple as a birthday card can be powerful. Make holidays special by delivering:

- Birthday cards and/or balloons
- Valentine's Day cards
- Easter baskets
- Summer activity baskets
- New backpacks for back-to-school
- Christmas presents

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Support Conversations

IS PRAYER ENOUGH?

Even if you don't feel equipped to support a foster or adoptive family right now in other ways, you can always pray.

Pray for the children as they heal from trauma and adjust to a new home. Pray that foster and adoptive families will find the support they need. Pray for the legal system, case workers, counselors, teachers, and more. Even biological families need prayer.

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Support Conversations

I AM NOT A COOK. DOES THAT MATTER?

There are plenty of ways to provide meals to a foster or adoptive family that do not require cooking!
Consider:

- Go grocery shopping and provide ingredients
- Drop off a meal from a restaurant
- Buy gift cards to restaurants & grocery stores
- Organize a group of people to contribute individual parts of a meal

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Support Conversations

CAN I HELP SUPPORT KIDS ALREADY IN THE HOME?

A great way to support a foster or adoptive family is to support the kids already in the home. Every family has different needs, so reach out and ask.

It may be easier to offer support to kids already in the home since this does not require certification. You could offer to drive them to activities and events while their parents attend foster care appointments. This can also be an opportunity to connect with the child and build a relationship.

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Support Conversations

HOW DO I ASK A FAMILY HOW I CAN SUPPORT THEM?

Some families are hesitant to accept support. While you do not want to overstep, be aware that families may need help but are not sure how to ask.

An easy way you can bless a family is by dropping off a meal on their porch. Once you build a relationship with a family, they may become more comfortable asking for and/or accepting help.

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Support Conversations

WHAT ARE OTHER WAYS I CAN SUPPORT A FAMILY?

- Help with housework or yard work
- Send an encouraging text
- Offer tutoring
- Support the biological children, too
- Help drive for appointments and activities

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