

Navigating the Foster Care System: Insights for Healthcare Professionals and Prospective Foster Parents

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I have not used artificial intelligence in the development of this presentation.

## Objectives

- At the conclusion of this activity, learners will be able to:
  - Demonstrate a newfound understanding of the complexities of foster care
  - Outline foster parent certification steps
  - Recognize foster family needs in LA
  - Understand the foster parent's perspective
  - Support foster parents in the pediatrician's office



#### **Case Presentation**

How did we get here?

Was this a huge mistake?



#### The Imbalance

4,382 children in foster care in Louisiana (June 2024)

1649 certified foster homes in Louisiana (May 2024)



#### **Certification Process**

Meet DCFS qualifications

Attend orientation

Pre-service training (21 hours, 7 sessions)

Application

Background check/fingerprinting

Home Study

## Certification Process-continued

It is A LOT!

#### Our First Placement

5 year old girl

Newly taken into state custody

Case worker: neglect, possible physical and sexual abuse

## The first days

Getting to know "C"

A trip to the zoo

Our kids and their reactions

Pediatrician's office

### Our First Placement

Were we prepared?

What did we NOT anticipate?

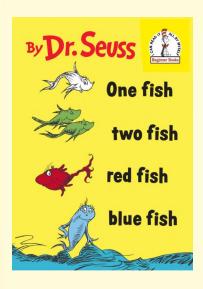
## Difficult Decision

Did we fail?

## The Bright Points

Catching bugs and worms









## Therapeutic Foster Care

What is a therapeutic foster home?

## Where do we go from here?

#### Respite care

- -temporary placement
- -provide relief/support for foster family
- -or for emergency placement

### The Pediatrician's Office

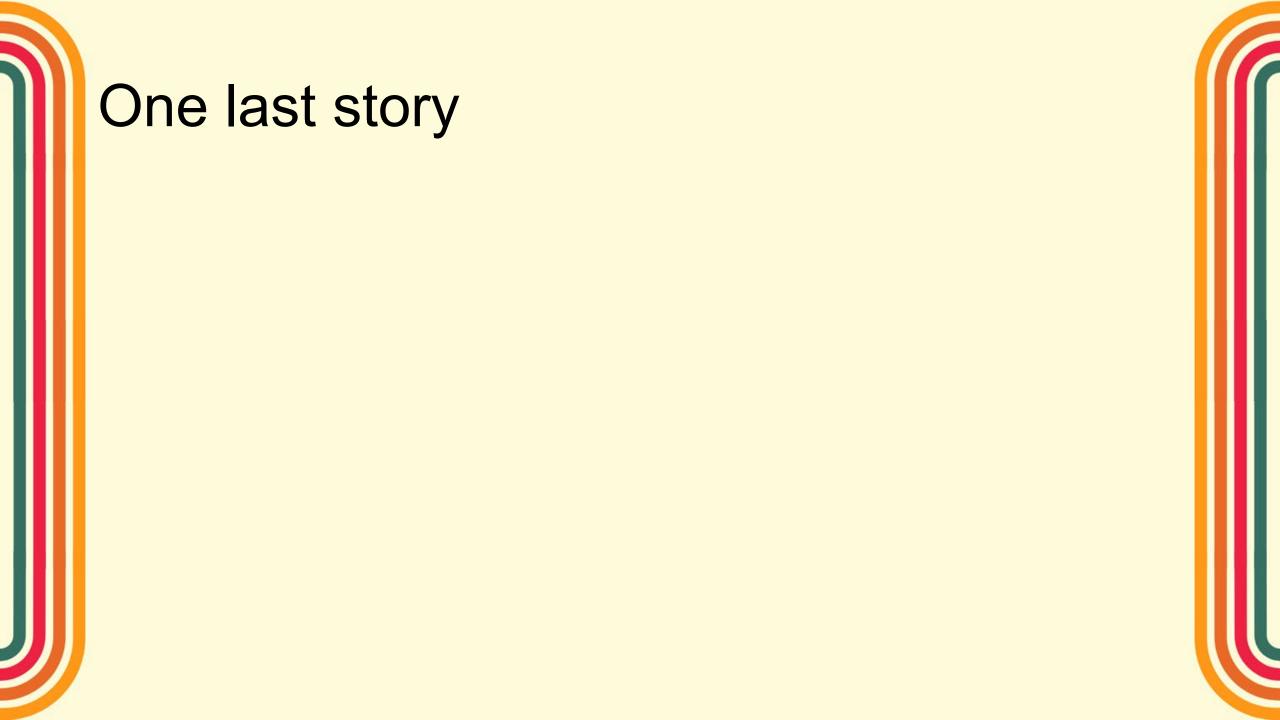
Unique needs of foster children

How can we support the child AND the foster parents?

Additional resources for foster families

## MOC Questions in Slido (3 slides)

Chapter staff will add these slides to your presentation once



# References and additional reading (1-2 slides)

Foster Parenting | Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services

Becoming a Foster Parent: FAQs - HealthyChildren.org

Adoption & Foster Care - HealthyChildren.org

Therapeutic-Foster-Care-Program.pdf (louisiana.gov)

Child Welfare and Foster Care Statistics - The Annie E. Casey Foundation (aecf.org)

Louisiana Foster & Adoptive Parents Association | Facebook Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization | Facebook



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