



# 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

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# Case Presentation

How did we get here?

Was this a huge mistake?

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# 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





By **Dr. Seuss**



**One fish**



**two fish**



**red fish**



**blue fish**




FROM **THERE** TO HERE,  
FROM **HERE** TO THERE,  
**FUNNY THINGS** ARE  
EVERYWHERE.

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DR. SEUSS






# 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

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One last story



# 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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