

Foster Parents

Your Rights When Caring for Children with Disabilities



If you are fostering a child with a disability (or a child you suspect may have one), you play a vital role in their education and healthcare. Federal law gives foster parents specific rights and responsibilities so that children don't fall through the cracks.

Education

Federal rights for foster or surrogate parents are found in the implementing regulations of IDEA at 34 C.F.R. §300.519



You have the right to:

- request a special education evaluation.
- participate in IEP meetings.
- help decide services, supports, and classroom placement.
- access educational records.
- give or withhold consent.
- disagree with the school and pursue dispute resolution.

Healthcare

Children in foster care have rights to healthcare outlined by a federal law called EPSDT: Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnostic & Treatment. This means that you may ask and advocate for Medicaid to cover:

- **all medically necessary treatment.**
- this includes check-ups, mental health care, specialists, therapies (speech, physical, occupational, etc.), medication, medical equipment, and more.



**Learn more
about EPSDT
here.**



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