



DO List for the Certification Process

Do understand that the certification process is time-consuming and at times invasive because the safety and well-being of precious children is paramount. Be thoughtful and honest when describing your background and family history. As much we want to be perceived as “the perfect family”, the home study worker needs to see the real, unvarnished truth.

Do provide clear, legible copies of all documents. Finding birth certificates can be a challenge, but remembering kids in foster care have experienced true pain should make what’s really just inconvenient well worth the trouble.

Do keep a checklist of tasks and forms. Some sort of system saves countless hours in the long run.

Do get to know other foster and adoptive families. Besides someone to talk to at the annual foster parent picnic and monthly support groups, they are great sources for finding medical providers who take Medicaid and are accepting new patients. Better yet, other families are more likely to understand the journey you’re on and can often offer just the encouragement and help you need.

Do carefully prepare and keep your home safe for children. We may grumble about the inconvenience of securing medications and cleaning products in upper cabinets but when a new child arrives at your home, you have no idea how curious and quick they may be!

Do build positive relationships and a strong support system. Include your case worker, family and friends. Be a team player. Be proactive and patient. Pay attention to detail but forget and forgive mistakes. Listen, ask questions and listen again. Follow through in a timely way. Invite friends and family to attend Project 1.27’s Support Team Training so they understand how they can be of help.

Do keep learning. Parenting kids who are experiencing deep grief, loss and change requires additional skill and knowledge.



Fostering and Adopting in Faith

Do trust God. Certification can be frustrating. There's a lot of hurry up and wait. There's disappointment. The process may trigger past wounds that need to be addressed. Fear of inadequacy or the well-being of existing children or making a wrong decision can overwhelm, even paralyze.

Do trust God. He is a faithful, trustworthy guide.