

# What to Expect When Becoming a Foster Parent

- ✓ First contact is made by an individual or family through website, phone, or in person event: <https://strongerfamilies.together.sd.gov> or 855.830.5062
- ✓ Inquiry coordinator responds within 48 hours and provides overview of the process, gathers basic information from the family, and answers questions.
- ✓ After an informational packet is sent to the family, the inquiry coordinator sets up a second call with the family to confirm their interest in becoming licensed.
- ✓ A training specialist contacts the family to set up an initial home-visit to provide additional information and assist the family to decide if they will apply to become a foster parent.
- ✓ Family is enrolled in the training curriculum: 30 hours of online and in-person training is completed.
- ✓ Approximately 3-4 home visits occur to discuss strengths and needs regarding providing foster care.
- ✓ Background checks, reference checks, health assessments, and a home-safety inspection are completed.
- ✓ The assessment information is compiled into a Home Study.
- ✓ Licensure status is determined.
- ✓ Licensed families are assigned a DSS Licensing Specialist to assist with matching children with your family and to provide support.