

Writing Contest Winners
October 2017

Grades 2-3:

1st place

Jamie Ann White- Robertson

Grade 3

Immaculate Heart of Mary School

Corner Brook, NL

I believe that foster parents should be helpful, thoughtful, and protective. This would make a child in care feel safe, noticed, happy, cared for and loved.

Foster parents should be protective because someone could get into the house and could steal the child in care. They also need to be protective because the child could get hurt. Foster parents can be a bit overprotective because of how the child in care may have had to leave their parents and because of the reasons they had to leave their parents. So by the foster parents being protective the child in care can feel safe which would make them happy.

If I was a child in care, I would miss my parents and it would be hard. So, I believe that a child in care would probably have the same feelings.

Foster parents are helpful in lots of ways. Being a foster parent is not easy, it is hard. So, the characteristics that I think are good for foster parents to have are to be helpful, thoughtful and protective so that the children in care will feel loved.

2nd place

Maria Barney

Grade 2

Labrador Straits Academy

L'Anse au Loup, NL

Foster parents should be nice so the child in care will be happy to come to their home. Foster parents should also be loving, because a child in care will need lots of hugs and kisses. Foster parents should be like my mom and dad. They are fun and they play with me. Sometimes we play with my dolls. Foster parents are great!

Grades 4-6:

1st place

Ashlee Griffin

Grade 4

Labrador Straits Academy

L'Anse au Loup, NL

Foster Families

I think foster families should be loving because foster children are going to need to feel loved and welcome. I think foster families should be caring because children in care are just like children who are not in care. You're going to need to care for them just as much as you care for your own children.

I think foster families should be helpful because everyone needs help sometimes and it's very nice and important to help people. I think foster families should be fair because if you treat one child better than the other child, the other child will be sad and they will not want to live where they're living.

Foster families should be lots of fun so the children would be happy living there. Foster families should have rules because the children need to stay safe.

If foster parents had these characteristics, they would be great foster parents.

2nd place

Oscar George

Grade 4

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Corner Brook, NL

Foster Parents

I think foster parents should have good traits and should be nice. Children like bedtime stories so they should do that because it is fun.

Foster parents should be nice to the child. Maybe play a game with them. At the end of the day, when the child goes to bed the foster parents should read the child a story.

Foster parents should make the child in care feel comfortable. They should talk gentle to the child. The foster parents should get them a cozy bed. They can even give them a special toy or pet to make the child in care feel good. Foster parents should do fun things with them. Maybe go to the ice-

cream store. Going for bike rides would be fun. They would like to have a BBQ because the food is really yummy and would help the child in care feel good. Foster parents should be nice and fun. Foster parents should make the child feel like they have their other parents back.

Grades 7-9:

1st place

Melody Bartlett

Grade 8

MSB Regional Academy

Middle Arm, NL

Foster care is an association that helps children and teens find families that care about them and are willing to help them. Foster care is a very big part of our world. Some people who want to be parents cannot have children of their own, so they decide to play a part in helping a child grow up in a family friendly home. Even if they decide not to adopt the child, they can still raise the child to be a mature young adult and make sure they have everything they could possibly need to be happy, and enjoy living. According to American statistics, the average length of time a child waits to be adopted in foster care is almost three years. Roughly 55 percent of these children have had three or more placements. One study found that 33 percent of children had changed elementary schools five or more times, losing relationships and falling behind educationally. Over 400,000 American children are in foster care, taken away when their families are in crisis and can't take care of them. In 2012, 397,000 children were in foster care, a 30 percent decline from the 1999 peak of 567,000, and a number lower than any seen in any of the past 25 years. In 2014, the number had increased to 415,000.

Children need people in their lives to make a change and to help them grow into adults. Without these people, children sometimes forget that someone out there knows what they are going through and could identify with their situation. Foster parents play a big role in this association. They can change a life by taking a child into their home for just the shortest amount of time. The amount of time doesn't matter, what matters is the tender loving care they show in the home while the child is there.

What a child needs is a family that they can depend on and trust. If they don't have that, they are practically alone. Children in care are special in their own kind of way.

As a teenage that was a child in care for most of my life, I feel that I play a part in helping young children and teenagers find their forever home. I was in a situation where I was being abused and neglected by my other, and I hardly ever saw my father. My older sister would help my brother get ready for school, and she would get me ready for daycare. She took the burden on her own shoulders to be the mother in the family. She fed us, and took it on herself to be a responsible and mature 5 year old.

She was the oldest in the home, but she was only 5. I was 1 at the time and I had to grow up in so many different places on the island.

After being a Child in Care for so many years, I got adopted. I found my forever family. I moved to a small town in the Western part of Newfoundland. Me and my sister made the transition from a place where we knew almost everybody, to a place where we knew absolutely nobody.

Over these past 5 years, I have become a new person. I have found out who I am and who I was meant to be. My life has been changed forever.

Foster homes really do make a change in children's lives. Getting older, I realized that every young teen or youth in general, need to grow up with a loving family to feel safe. If you don't have a loving family, you will grow up in fear. When a child grows up in fear, they never know what it feels like to be safe.

I really do believe that Foster homes make a difference...

2nd place

Carly Johannesen

Grade 7

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Corner Brook, NL

What is foster care, and does it make a difference?

Did you know that there are over 47,000 children in foster care across Canada? In my opinion, foster care is something that helps children get shelter, education, know that they are loved and well cared for. I will later discuss what foster care is, what a difference foster care makes and why we need foster families.

What is foster care? Foster care provides housing for children in care and ensures that they feel loved and cared for. You can be in foster care until you are 18. There are many different kinds of foster care: emergency care, short term care, long term care, and family care. There are many reasons for foster care whether there is a request for assistance, or a caregiver with a problem, child exposure to partner violence, inadequate supervision or neglect from the caregiver. Children can go into foster homes because their caregiver wanted them to or because a neighbor, a parent or a teacher reported that there was a problem.

How does foster care make a difference? When children go into foster care, it makes a big difference to the child's life. They will be part of a safe and happy family. In a foster home, the children have no worries about getting hurt or having to find food for themselves. All children in care will have the same opportunities as regular children for education, sports, and everything that they are involved in.

Children in care can be involved in music lessons, recitals, sports games and anything that they might be interested in.

Why do we need foster families and why are they important? We need foster families to help children have a place to stay, feel cared for and loved, for however long they need. Foster families provide care and medicine to help them stay healthy. Having foster families is important because there are over 47,000 children in foster care. Many Canadian children have been neglected or had inadequate supervision so they need a foster family to help them have a safe place to live. Foster families help strengthen families so hopefully they can reunite.

The purpose of my essay is to show everyone what foster care is and how it makes a difference in a child's life. I have discussed what foster care is, how foster care makes a difference, and why foster care is important. I think that foster care is great and it makes a big difference in the life of the child and the parent.

Level 1-3

There were no winners selected from this category.