

FOSTER CARE AT A GLANCE

Purpose: The primary goal of foster care is to provide a safe, stable, and nurturing environment for children whose parents are unable to care for them, with the aim of reunification whenever possible.

Statistics: There are over 400,000 children in the U.S. foster care system right now. (US Department of Education (ED))

Duration: Children can remain in foster care for varying lengths of time, from a few days to several years, depending on their circumstances and the progress of reunification or adoption processes.

Aging Out: Each year, around 20,000 young people age out of the foster care system at age 18 (or 21 in some states) without being reunited with their families or adopted, which can present significant challenges for their transition to independent living. (US Department of Education (ED))

Types of Foster Care: There are different types of foster care, including emergency placements, short-term placements, long-term placements, kinship care (placement with relatives), and therapeutic or treatment foster care for children with special needs.

Support: Foster parents typically receive financial support from the state to cover the cost of caring for the children placed with them, including allowances for food, clothing, and other necessities.

Training and Licensing: Prospective foster parents must undergo training and obtain a license or certification, which includes background checks, home studies, and ongoing training to ensure they are equipped to care for foster children.

Legal Rights: Children in foster care have certain legal rights, including the right to be free from abuse, the right to appropriate medical and mental health care, and the right to education.

At My Bag My Story, we support children in foster care by providing quality bags to help ease their transitions, offering a sense of dignity and stability during difficult times.

