



"Fate brought us together but love has made us a family...forever!"

Who are the children waiting to be adopted?

They are of all ages and races; both male and female. The majority of the children are over 6 years old. The majority are African-American, and there are more boys than girls. We are especially looking for homes for sibling groups, which may be 2 or 3 children, and occasionally more. Some of the children have medical or other special needs.

Where are these children?

Most children waiting to be adopted are living in foster homes. A few are in residential facilities.

The Adoption Information Center of Illinois maintains a book which lists pictures and descriptions of children who are available for adoption. The Adoption Information Center of Illinois is located at 188 West Randolph Street, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60601, 800/572-2390.

How do I get more information about adoption and about children who are available?

Please call 800/572-2390 or the Department of Children and Family Services office listed in your local phone book.

To a child in need, the wait seems like forever. If you think you can help a child, please call today.



*Open your heart,
adopt a child.*



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ringing a child into your family who has been part of the child welfare system may be the most satisfying experience of your life. There is a special joy in making this kind of remarkable difference in a child's life — a feeling you can't get any other way. Adoption is a great way to give a child the family he or she deserves.

The decision to add a child to your family — whether by birth or adoption — is certainly life-changing and the responsibilities are awesome. These responsibilities mean a new life for you and the child. We at the Department of Children and Family Services want to find just the right family to meet the particular needs of each of our children who are available for adoption. A family and family life are important to all of us and especially so for a child in the child welfare system.

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With that focus in mind, we hope the following information will help you make the important decision about whether to open your heart, your family and your life to a child (or children) who need a loving and nurturing environment.

Who are adoptive parents?

Adoptive parents are probably a lot like you. They...

- like kids
- are willing to make a commitment to a child for a permanent lifetime relationship
- are flexible in finding ways to adjust to new situations and changes
- understand that truly accepting a child as part of their family means accepting a child's past history
- feel good about being parents
- can show affection in healthy ways for a child who has been abused or neglected
- are comfortable with setting firm limits and specific rules for the child when necessary
- can use non-physical forms of discipline
- do not need or expect to satisfy their own needs through their children
- can find pleasure and take pride in the small gains children make
- advocate to meet their children's needs

What are the requirements for adoptive parents?

There is not a list of specific requirements. Most people who can provide an adequate and loving home are eligible to adopt. As an adoptive parent, you...

- can be single, married, divorced, or separated and living apart from a spouse for 12 months or longer
- can or can not have birth or adopted children
- must be able to financially manage the addition of a child(ren) to the family, although there are no specific income requirements. (There is financial assistance and medical insurance available for families who adopt a child over three or a special needs child of any age.)
- must have room in your home, but you do not have to own a home
- must have no criminal history that will prevent you from being licensed to adopt

