

How Does Respite Work?

- Foster Parents will notify the agency for the need of respite care and then the agency will contact respite care providers to make the arrangements.
- Notification for the need of respite care is typically received in advance, but sometimes respite is also needed during emergency or unplanned situations.
- Upon contact, you will receive a description of the child and the dates the respite care is needed.
- You can accept or decline the respite care assignment and only need to accept assignments that work within your schedule and within your ability to meet the needs of the child.
- Most respite care assignments are short-term and occur over a weekend or for a few days at a time, but they are limited to no more than 28 consecutive days.
- Cancellations sometimes occur and flexibility and your understanding is appreciated.



**ONEIDA COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Have Questions or want to know how to apply to become a Respite Care Provider?

Reach out to us and request more information or request an application packet!

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Respite Foster Care

What is Respite Care?

Respite Foster Care is a short-term, caregiving arrangement, provided in your home designed to support foster families by giving them a temporary break.

Respite care is a meaningful way to support foster families and make a difference without committing to a long-term placement. It is a rewarding way to support children in foster care without the full-time commitment of being a foster parent and it's ideal for individuals or families who want to help, but need more flexibility or for those who have been thinking about becoming a foster parent, but are not quite certain yet if it's a right fit for them.

Respite Care is needed for children of all ages, but the agency will work with you on determining the ages you are comfortable providing care for.



What are the requirements to be a Respite Care Provider?

- You must be 18-years of age or older
- You may be single, married, divorced, widowed, or in a significant long-term relationship
- Your physical and mental health conditions do not interfere with your ability to provide care for a child
- You and your family must participate in the home study process with the licensing agency
- You must pass a criminal background check
- Your home must comply with standards established by the State of Wisconsin as outlined in Chapter DCF 56
- You must be able to provide proof of insurance including homeowners or renters insurance and auto insurance
- You must provide names and contact information of at least three references
- You must complete the required Online Pre-Placement Training

What are primary responsibilities of a Respite Care Provider?

- Provide a safe and nurturing environment.
- You must be available to provide care to the child during the arranged respite assignment. This means that other care arrangements for a child shall not be made during your respite care assignment with the exception of a child attending daycare/school/camp, etc.
- You may be asked to provide transportation for the child to and from respite care in your home, school/daycare and sports/activities.
- Respite providers should have food and age-appropriate toys and entertainment, some basic essentials on hand and other supplies, including a crib or pack n play and carseats for the ages of children they intend to provide care for as applicable.
- You can include the children in your normal daily activities and family outings.