

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do these children have medical needs?

A: Some may, but there will be support provided for any child with complicated medical needs.

Q: Do children with developmental disabilities have more behavioral problems?

A: Not necessarily. Many children with developmental disabilities are easy going and good natured. For those that have challenging behaviors, we will provide resources for learning simple techniques and strategies that are helpful.

Q: How can I best support a child with my limited background in special needs or disabilities?

A: All it takes is a change in attitude – that part is easy! Once you have decided to take this step, we will connect you with many resources and supports to help you on your journey. Caring for a child with special needs though sometimes challenging, is ultimately one of the most rewarding experiences you will ever have.

Q: What resources are available to help me?

A: The list of agencies on the inside of the brochure is a start. There are many, many caring and supportive resources available for families of children with special needs. Come and discover a whole new world.



Sponsored by



Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council
Margaret O'Neil Building
410 Federal St
Dover, DE 19901
(302) 739-2232
<http://ddc.de.delaware.gov>

**As a
Foster Care Parent
You Can Provide
a Caring Home for an
Exceptional Child**

Did You Know?

Anyone of any age can have a disability. More than 50 million—which is about 1 in 5—Americans report having some level of disability. Children with disabilities fundamentally require the same care from parents as all children – to be safe, healthy and a part of a caring community. Occasionally an abused, neglected or dependent child enters foster care with a physical, cognitive or emotional disability. Although foster care is a temporary placement, potential parents may be reluctant to accept a child with disabilities because of preconceived notions or fears about their abilities to care for a child. But rest assured, the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Families works with foster care parents to access the proper services to help with a comfortable transition for the child. While considering accepting of a child into your home is a big decision, it is good to know that there are parents just like you who have provided a loving, caring foster care experience for exceptional children in the state of DE. Read Monica Sheets' story and learn about the truth for foster care support.

Children with Special Needs Include

(but are not limited to)

Aspergers Syndrome

Autism

Cerebral Palsy

Downs Syndrome

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Fragile X

Muscular Dystrophy

Multi-Sensory Impairments (blindness/deaf)

Prenatal Substance Exposure (Drugs)

At Home with Monica and J



Monica and her husband have cared for children from foster care for seven years. When they originally started, they supported one particular child, but continued because they saw a need. They didn't anticipate caring for a child with special needs, but both agreed that they would accept any and all children. Today they care for J, a beautiful five year-old boy diagnosed with cerebral palsy, clinically deaf and blind.

When asked about the challenges of being a foster care parent for a child with special needs, Monica replies, "There are really no more challenges then dealing with a 'typical' child. We may have to load a van or pack a little extra when we leave the house, but the rewards far outweigh any challenges." And those rewards? According to Monica, "It's the little things! The little accomplishments and small achievements mean so much more. J has changed our lives in so many ways I could go on for days. His smile brightens up the room and he makes my day with his kisses."

A 'day in the life' for Monica and J is much like any other day for anyone else. J goes to school, participates in many of the activities in school and community. He has a nurse and a para that accompany him to his class. It takes a little extra time to do the day to day things, but they have a great time going out – be it dinner, sporting events or just going to the park. Monica gives the following advice, "If you have the heart and desire to share your love with children, then don't wait. There are so many children who need someone to love, nurture, guide and care for them."



Need additional information or support?

Division of Developmental Disabilities Services
(302) 744-9600 • www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/ddds
Birth to Three – Child Development Watch Program
1-800-671-0050

www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/chs/chscdw.html
Dept. of Services for Children, Youth, and Families
(302) 633-2650 • <http://kids.delaware.gov/>

Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative
Alfred I. Du Pont Hospital for Children
1-800-870-3284 • www.dati.org

Department of Education: Special Education
Exceptional Children and Early Childhood Group
(302) 739-4210
www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/specialed

Parent Information Center of Delaware
(302) 999-7394 • www.picofdel.org

Developmental Disabilities Council
(302) 739-2232 • <http://ddc.delaware.gov>

Autism Delaware
(302) 224-6020 • www.delautism.org

Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
(302) 739-4553 • <http://gacec.delaware.gov>

State Council for Persons with Disabilities
(302) 739-3620
<http://scpd.delaware.gov>

