



To learn more about autism visit:

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism>

Fostering Children and Youth with Autism

Neurodivergent is a term used to describe individuals whose neurological development and functioning differ from what is considered typical. Individuals with neurodiversity experience, interact with, and interpret the world in unique ways.

Autism Spectrum Disorder is one of many neurodivergent conditions.

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurological and developmental disorder caused by differences in the brain that can impact a person's communication, social skills, relationships, and self-regulation.



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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

An estimated 9.1% of children and youth experiencing foster care are on the autism spectrum.

Washington state needs foster parents and kinship caregivers to care for children and youth diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Important Characteristics for People Fostering Children and Youth with ASD

- Patience
- Understanding
- Consistency
- Flexibility
- Kindness
- Open to having honest and transparent conversations

Choosing to foster is a personal journey. We are here to support you along the way, from beginning steps to completing the licensing process.

Foster parent supports include:

- Support from the Caregiver Retention, Education, and Support (CaRES) program
- Access to caregiver training from the Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence
- Monthly foster care reimbursement depending on the age and needs
- Mileage reimbursement for transportation
- Respite care
- Childcare assistance for working foster parents
- Medical, dental, and vision insurance for children and youth placed in care

Learn more about becoming a foster parent by calling **1-888-KIDS-414**

Visit our Become a Foster Parent page: www.dcyf.wa.gov/foster



Scan the QR Code or visit www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting/questionnaire to start the process.

