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## What is Unique About Professional Foster Care?

This model provides the additional support of full-time residential counselors who are assigned to work with children in each Professional Foster Home.

Professional/treatment foster care provides one-on-one therapeutic support to children as well as assistance and support to professional foster parents.

All staff in Professional Foster Care are trained in Cornell University's Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) Program. A consistent approach of behavior management and problem solving is used throughout the program. TCI techniques are to help children to develop new responses. The crisis situation is used as a learning and growing experience.



Professional Foster Care intake supervisors and team members work closely with DCFS Clinical Coordinators to ensure the safety and well-being of children placed in Professional Foster homes.

All DCFS regions are able to place children in The Baby Fold's PFC homes; however, priority will be given to those children referred from the Central Region.

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**OUR MISSION:** The Baby Fold embodies Christian principles to serve children and families and help them build safe, loving, and healthy environments.



**The Baby Fold**  
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The Baby Fold is a not for profit private agency, licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The Baby Fold is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and EAGLE, and affiliated with the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. We serve all races, nationalities, and creeds.



# Professional Foster Care Program



This program offered by  
The Baby Fold

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## PROFESSIONAL (TREATMENT) FOSTER CARE

The Professional Foster Care Program (PFC) of The Baby Fold provides the most intense programming and supervision available within a foster care setting. The program provides for the complex needs of children who cannot be cared for by their own families or in other less restrictive foster care programs.

PFC is an option that provides a successful alternative to group home or residential care for children with moderate to severe behavioral, emotional, social, or learning/developmental problems.

The therapeutic milieu provided in PFC creates an intentional atmosphere within the home to engage each youth to change undesirable behaviors and develop skills which will help them be successful.

**Our Goal:** To help each child achieve full potential and permanency by providing a structured, nurturing, normalizing environment which meets their specific needs.

## What Children are Served in The Baby Fold's Professional Foster Care Program?

The program will accept children whom The Baby Fold and referral source deem appropriate regardless of race or sex.

Professional foster families are licensed to serve children between the ages of birth and 21 years old.

Children to be served are under the age of 21 years for whom the Department is legally responsible and it has been determined that the child is in need of substitute care services, including Medicaid Community Mental Health and other social and rehabilitative services, because of substantial impairment in role functioning, as indicated by an ICD-9CM.

Some of the primary diagnoses include:

- Anxiety Disorder ● Bi-polar Disorder
- Attention Deficit Disorder ● Depression
  - Reactive Attachment Disorder
- Conduct Disorder ● Encopresis/Enuresis
  - Oppositional Defiant Disorder
  - PTSD ● FAS/FAE

This above list is by no means inclusive, but reflects the general client population.

Children are able to function in a small group foster family setting (2-4 children) and cope with intimacy of family life.

Some children may return home. Others may require care until they are adopted or move to independent living situations. All the children need and deserve the nurturing yet structured environment of Professional Foster Homes.

## Who are Professional Foster Care Parents and What is Their Role?

PFC parents are trained experienced foster parents who are paid employees of The Baby Fold.

They are required to have a minimum of five years experience as a licensed foster parent, three years of which is specialized or a licensed foster parent with five years direct residential care work in child welfare.

They are members of a treatment team who provide day-to-day care and services to children temporarily placed in their home.

They work closely with the team and other professionals to develop and carry out each child's individual treatment plan, and to achieve permanency for the children.

They supervise residential counselors, who are employed to work in Professional Foster Homes, to provide therapeutic based services to children and support to the Professional Foster Parents.