



Level 2 Licensed Foster Home: Basic Foster Home Welcome Packet & Training Information for Foster Parents

Greeting from the Director:

Welcome from all of us at the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System! Our mission here is one of support and service: promoting best child-welfare practice through education, skill development, strategic partnerships, and effective advocacy. Our vision and subsequent hope is that every child, youth, and family in Wisconsin experiences an enhanced quality of life complete with opportunity and supportive communities. We recognize that an enormous part of fulfilling that vision starts with you, those families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need of foster placement. Our role is to support **you** in becoming the very best foster parent you can be. We are subsequently committed to serving our foster families through exceptional professional development opportunities that are available, accessible, and of high quality.

As a new foster parent, you have access to an array of professional development opportunities that we offer. That journey begins with the web-based *Foster Parent Pre-Placement Training*, which must be completed prior to having a child placed in your home. *Foundation Training*, then, focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary to be the best foster parent you can be and is offered through your initial two-year licensing period. After licensing and as part of the licensing renewal process, we provide on-going training across a variety of topics in both classroom and flexible formats. All of this and more is outlined in greater detail within this *Welcome Packet*. Trust that your foster care coordinator/licensor will be there to guide you through every step of this foster parenting process. They are there to answer your questions, support your efforts, and ensure you meet requirements for licensure.

Welcome aboard! We are so grateful to have you as part of this team.

Darin Smith, Director
Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System
University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work

Level 2 Licensed Foster Home: A Basic Foster Home license is issued to individuals who want to provide foster care to children with whom they may not have a previous relationship.

This guide describes the training rule for Level 2 licensed homes and provides guidance on how to access the training sessions to fulfill your training requirements.

Foster Parent training requirements are in three levels:

- Pre-Placement: prior to the placement of a child into the home.
- Initial Licensing: Level 2 licensed foster parents must complete 30 hours of training within the first licensing period. A licensing period can be up to two years.
- Ongoing Training: Each foster parent who operates a Level 2 licensed foster home shall complete 10 hours of ongoing training in each 12-month period of licensure subsequent to the initial licensing period.

		Level 2
Pre-Placement Curriculum	Foster Care Overview	Pre-Placement: 6 hours
	Expectations of Foster Parents	
	Caring for Children in Foster Care	
	Developing and Maintaining Family Connections	
	Caregiver Self Care	
Foundation Curriculum	Permanency	Initial Licensing: 30 hours
	Cultural Dynamics in Placement	
	Child Abuse and Neglect	
	Impact of Maltreatment on Development	
	Attachment	
	Separation and Placement	
	Importance of Maintaining a Child's Family Connections	
	Guidance and Positive Discipline	
	Access to Resources	
Ongoing Training: 10 hours each year of licensure beyond the initial licensing period		

Pre-Placement Training

Requirement and Content

During initial licensure and prior to a child being placed in your home, you must complete the Foster Parent Pre-Placement Training. Training requirements are a minimum of 6 hours of pre-placement training under DCF 56.14(6).

Pre-placement courses reinforce and clarify any information you have learned as a part of the licensing process. They provide the fundamental information needed to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the child. The topics of the training are listed in the chart above.

Accessing the Training

Foster Parents complete the Pre-Placement Training online. The online training can be accessed on the WCWPDS website at: <https://care.wcwpds.wisc.edu/foster-parent-pre-placement/>.

Documenting Completion of Training

At the end of the Foster Parent Pre-Placement Training, print out the Certificate of Completion to document that you have completed the training. You will want to share this with your foster care coordinator/licensor.

In addition, your licensor will complete a Licensor Guide to the Web-Based Foster Parent Pre-Placement Training form to make sure that they have reviewed all of the information in the training with you and you have had an opportunity get your questions answered.

Professional Development Plan for Level 2 Licensed Foster Homes

The Professional Development Plan for Level 2 Licensed Foster Homes was created to help newly licensed foster parents (one per licensed parent) record the dates that the Foster Parent Pre-Placement Training is completed. The Professional Development Plan is available on the Caregiver page of the WCWPDS website under the "Foster Parent Training Information" section within the "Level 2" accordion at: <https://care.wcwpds.wisc.edu/foster-parent-training-information/>.

Initial Licensing Training (Foundation)

Requirement and Content

Within the first two years of licensure as a Level 2 foster home, foster parents must complete 30 hours of initial licensing training under DCF 56.14(7) (referred to from here forward as Foster Parent Foundation Training).

The ten-module Foster Parent Foundation curriculum explores the key aspects of foster parenting, focusing on both knowledge and skills building. The topics covered in the training are listed in the table on page 2 of this document. For a more in-depth summary of each module, click open the accordion file the WCWPDS website at: <https://care.wcwpds.wisc.edu/foster-parent-foundation-training/>.

Accessing the Training

The WCWPDS-Milwaukee Office plans, schedules and delivers Foster Parent Foundation Training to county and tribal licensed foster parents across the state.

Child Placing Agencies (CPA) offer Foster Parent Foundation Training to the homes they license. CPA licensed foster parents may also attend training sessions provided by WCWPDS-Milwaukee.

- Training Calendar: A training calendar is released by WCWPDS-Milwaukee every six months. The current training calendar is available at: <https://care.wcwpds.wisc.edu/training-calendar/>.
- Training Registration: Foster Parents who attend the Foundation training offered by WCWPDS-Milwaukee must register for the Foster Parent Foundation Training in the PDS Online learning management system. The **User Guide to PDS Online Registration and Learning Management System** provides detailed information for licensed foster parents on accessing and utilizing PDS Online to register for and withdraw from Foundation training and view their training transcript.
- User Guide to PDS Online Registration and Learning Management System: This Guide is available on the Training Calendars page at: <https://care.wcwpds.wisc.edu/training-calendar/>.

Documenting Completion of the Training

Once Foundation training that is offered by the WCWPDS is completed, training attendance is recorded in PDS Online and will display on your transcript. Your Foster Care Coordinator or licenser has access to your transcript to allow them to monitor your progress completing the training.

Professional Development Plan for Level 2 Licensed Foster Homes

The Professional Development Plan for Level 2 Licensed Foster Homes was created to help newly licensed foster parents (one per licensed parent) record the date each Module of the Foster Parent Foundation Training is completed. It allows you to track the Foundation training modules that you still need to complete. The Professional Development Plan is available on the Caregiver page of the WCWPDS website under the "Foster Parent Training Information" section within the "Level 2" accordion at: <https://care.wcwpds.wisc.edu/foster-parent-training-information/>.

Ongoing Training

Requirement and Content

After the initial licensing period, each foster parent in a Level 2 licensed foster home shall complete 10 hours of ongoing training under DCF 56.14(8) in each 12-month period.

Administrative Code Ch. DCF 56 explains Ongoing Training topics and delivery methods in open-ended terms. This was intentional. This allows Foster Care Coordinators/licensers to support foster parent completion of training topics that

meet the specific needs of the foster parents and the children for whom they provide care.

Training Needs Assessment

At re-licensure, or at any point during the licensing period, your foster care coordinator/ licensor may have a conversation with you about your training needs. Together you should create an ongoing training plan and decide which training opportunities to look for in the upcoming year. Here is a sample of questions to get you started thinking about your training needs:

- *What was your overall experience with Foundation Training?*
- *What information from Foundation training did you find useful? Which did you apply?*
- *Did you face any barriers to using the information?*
- *Would you like more training on that topic?*
- *Describe the children in your home; do any of their circumstances or behaviors pose a challenge?*
- *Would gathering more information or skills to address these challenges improve your confidence in parenting/caring for this child?*

Professional Development Plan for Level 2 Licensed Foster Homes

In the Professional Development Plan for Level 2 Licensed Foster Homes, there is a section of the Plan that allows for foster parents to record information about the ongoing training you attended. You are asked to record the title and type of training, who provided the training, training dates, training description, and actual training hours earned. The Professional Development Plan is available on the Caregiver page of the WCWPDS website under the "Foster Parent Training Information" section within the "Level 2" accordion at:

<https://care.wcwpds.wisc.edu/foster-parent-training-information/>.

Accessing Training

Foster Parents can access ongoing training in a variety of ways: web-based, in-person group or virtual training, or through self-guided learning (i.e. reading books or newsletters).

It is recommended that you become familiar with training opportunities provided in your county and communities. Each county has an UW Extension Family Living Program that has resources on child development, nutrition, health and safety. School districts, libraries, and local chapters of the United Way or American Red Cross are other entities that offer education to families. Ask your Foster Care Coordinator/ licensor to connect you with local programs that may provide resources for ongoing training opportunities.

In addition to WCWPDS, the Wisconsin Family Connections Center (a collaborative program that merged the former Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center and the Wisconsin Permanency Support Center) offers ongoing training sessions for foster parents throughout the year. These are face-to-face or interactive webinars on

foster care related topics. For more information check out the Wisconsin Family Connections Center (WiFCC) website at: <https://wifamilyconnectionscenter.org/>.

Documenting Completion of the Training

Any training that foster parents do not register to attend in PDS Online will need to be recorded as external training sessions within PDS Online. You or your Foster Care Coordinator/licensor can add an external training into your transcript in PDS Online. Check with your Foster Care Coordinator to see if you should be entering these sessions into PDS Online or if they will be. Information on how to add an external training is available within the **User Guide to PDS Online Registration and Learning Management System** at: <https://care.wcwpds.wisc.edu/>.

Compliance and Training Rule Exceptions

Training compliance is reviewed by your Foster Care Coordinator / licensor during the licensing period and at renewal. If a foster parent does not comply with the licensing regulations, an exception may be requested by contacting your Foster Care Coordinator.

User Guide to PDS Online Registration and Learning Management System

The PDS Online User Guide was developed to assist in navigating PDS Online. It is available on the Training Calendars page at: <https://care.wcwpds.wisc.edu/training-calendar/>.