



8 FAMILY TALK TIPS

Here are tips you can use to start talking with your family about the possibility of fostering a student through Orangewood Foundation's Youth Connected Program

1. Be Excited

As you gather with those in your household, let them hear your excitement as you share your interest in potentially becoming a foster family. Gatherings are the perfect backdrop for discussing this life-enhancing opportunity.

2. Be confident

Your family can feel confident in exploring your interest. By starting the information process, you will be connected to a Youth Connected Program staff member who will invite you to complete an application and attend an orientation session before anything else takes place. Should you choose to move forward, you will be provided with specialized training and one-on-one meetings to ensure you are given the best possible match for your family's lifestyle and circumstances.

3. Use Togetherness

Use the togetherness of family gatherings or experiences to talk about how your family can be involved with a local foster youth. Mention how there is enough space and enough food for another seat at the table. Ask family members what is important to them and how they might be able to see themselves as part of a foster youth's life during special occasions, the holidays and all year long. Engage them in how they could play a role.

4. Talk about Traditions

Talk about family traditions and how important they are to your family. Ask family members what traditions they might like to start or learn about from a foster youth who could join your family. Open their minds to learning new traditions or creating new ones.

5. Do a Service Project

When your family does a service project or contributes to a charity, use it as an opportunity to discuss your family's values and sharing your family's resources with a local teen all year long by fostering.

6. Talk about Questions & Misconceptions

Be prepared to talk about misconceptions. It's natural to have questions about how becoming a foster parent can impact your family life. Our Youth Connected Program team will walk with you every step of the way to help you determine if this is the right next chapter for your family.

7. Everyone is welcome. Remind your loved ones that we welcome families composed of individuals or couples, married or unmarried, of same or different sexes, who rent or own their homes or apartments. Joining the Youth Connected Program is a great opportunity for your family to experience a diverse community that comes together to meet the needs of teens in foster care.

8. Joining a Community

Let your family know they are joining a community designed to support foster teens AND their foster parents, making this a collaborative partnership that benefits us all. Collaborative foster parents have 24/7 access to on-call social workers who are trained to guide through crises. We also connect each teen with psychologists and counselors who help teens process these changes

