

Name:

Day One

Foster Care

Part 1: Silent read

→ What is foster care? Read silently.

Sometimes children can't live at home. Their parents might be very sick. Their parents may have serious problems. The adults may not be able to cope. Or the mother or father might have died. When this happens, who cares for the children?

Many children live with an adult who is not their parent. It could be an aunt or a grandparent. But sometimes it is an adult who specializes in caring for children. These adults are called foster parents. The state can decide to place children in their homes. Foster parents receive a stipend. A stipend is money from the state. State stipends pay for food and clothing.

Michelle has two children. She is also a foster parent. She took classes on caring for children who can't live with their parents. Then she began caring for foster children. She has cared for more than 40 children in 15 years. Some were quite sick. Many had emotional problems.

Michelle said in an interview, "I feel very fortunate. We have learned so much more from these children than they've learned from us. We've learned that they can love unconditionally. And it's very, very hard sometimes. But the benefits far outweigh anything else."

Some children begin to see their foster family as a real second family. When the foster care system works, children feel safe. They feel cared for. Michelle has now adopted two of her foster children.

Source: "The Foster Care System: What Parents Wish We Knew," *NPR*, March 21, 2013.



Day One Foster Care

// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Sometimes children can't live at home. Their parents might be very sick. Their parents may have serious problems. The adults may not be able to cope. Or the mother or father might have died. When this happens, who cares for the children?

Many children live with an adult who is not their parent. It could be an aunt or a grandparent. But sometimes it is an adult who specializes in caring for children. These adults are called foster parents. The state can decide to place children in their homes.	60 74 89
Foster parents receive a stipend. A stipend is money from the state. State stipends pay for food and clothing.	105 108

Michelle has two children. She is also a foster parent. She took classes on caring for children who can't live with their parents. Then she began caring for foster children. She has cared for more than 40 children in 15 years. Some were quite sick. Many had emotional problems.	124 139 155 157
---	--------------------------

Michelle said in an interview, "I feel very fortunate. We have learned so much more from these children than they've learned from us. We've learned that they can love unconditionally. And it's very, very hard sometimes. But the benefits far outweigh anything else."	172 186 198 200
---	--------------------------

Some children begin to see their foster family as a real second family. When the foster care system works, children feel safe. They feel cared for. Michelle has now adopted two of her foster children.	216 230 235
--	-------------------

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What is a foster parent?

What is a stipend?

Day One

Foster Care

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Sometimes children can't live at home. // Their parents might be very sick. // Their parents may have serious problems. // The adults may not be able to cope. // Or the mother / or father might have died. // When this happens, / who cares for the children? //

Many children live with an adult / who is not their parent. // It could be an aunt / or a grandparent. // But sometimes it is an adult / who specializes in caring for children. // These adults are called foster parents. // The state can decide to place children / in their homes. // Foster parents receive a stipend. // A stipend is money from the state. // State stipends pay for food and clothing. //

Michelle has two children. // She is also a foster parent. // She took classes on caring for children / who can't live with their parents. // Then she began caring for foster children. // She has cared for more than 40 children / in 15 years. // Some were quite sick. // Many had emotional problems. //

Michelle said in an interview, / "I feel very fortunate. // We have learned so much more from these children / than they've learned from us. // We've learned / that they can love unconditionally. // And it's very, / very hard sometimes. // But the benefits far outweigh anything else." //

Some children begin to see their foster family / as a real second family. // When the foster care system works, / children feel safe. // They feel cared for. // Michelle has now adopted two of her foster children. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.