

Name:

Day One

Group Homes: Good and Bad

Part 1: Silent read

→ What's it like to live in a group home? Read silently.

Children crave the love and care of a family. However, some children can't live with their families. Foster families are meant to give this love and care. Older children may be hard to place. They may be waiting for a foster family. These children live in group homes.

Tray lived in a group home for six years. He spoke to the teen magazine, *LA Youth*, about his time in the home. Overall, Tray's experience was good. He says one special worker felt like family. "Late at night when I was feeling down, she would stay up and talk to me."

Sadly, not all group homes are good ones. Many homes have too few workers. Care workers are badly paid. Their discipline may be crude. They may tease or shame children who act up. Many group homes have had problems with abuse. In fact, research shows that children who spend time in group homes have more problems as adults.

Although Tray's experience was good, he had a few gripes. He wanted more choices and more privacy. He remembers getting in trouble for just fixing a snack. Group homes, he says, should let teens stave off hunger when they feel like it. "Let us take a shower when we want and eat when we're hungry," he told *LA Youth*. Experts agree. Most group homes provide the basics. But group homes should also offer more privacy and freedom.

Source: "My group home staff were like mothers," *LA Youth*, October 2007.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Children crave the love and care of a family. However, some children can't live with their families. Foster families are meant to give this love and care. Older children may be hard to place. They may be waiting for a foster family. These children live in group homes. 48

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81
99
100

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130
145
158

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188
206
221
235

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why do some children and teens live in group homes?

What are some problems with group homes?

Day One

Group Homes: Good and Bad

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.

Children crave the love and care of a family. // However, / some children can't live with their families. // Foster families are meant to give this love and care. // Older children may be hard to place. // They may be waiting for a foster family. // These children live in group homes. //

Tray lived in a group home for six years. // He spoke to the teen magazine, / *LA Youth*, / about his time in the home. // Overall, / Tray's experience was good. // He says / one special worker felt like family. // "Late at night when I was feeling down, / she would stay up / and talk to me." //

Sadly, / not all group homes are good ones. // Many homes have too few workers. // Care workers are badly paid. // Their discipline may be crude. // They may tease or shame children / who act up. // Many group homes have had problems with abuse. // In fact, / research shows that children who spend time in group homes / have more problems as adults. //

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