For information about child care training opportunities, please contact Mary Bell, Case Manager.

Step 9: Legal Procedures & Finalization

Legal procedures are an important part of the adoption process. It is important to understand the legal requirements and timelines involved in adopting a child.

Step 8: Supervision (Post Placement)

After the child is placed in your home, the Family Services worker will visit you at least three times a year. These visits are important for the child's well-being and for your ongoing support.

Step 7: Conclusion (Home Study)

The conclusion of the home study is an important step in the adoption process. At this point, you should be prepared to make a decision about whether or not to proceed with the adoption.

Step 6: Selection

You will be invited to a meeting to learn more about the types of foster care youth waiting for adoption. During this meeting, you will have an opportunity to ask questions and express your interest in adopting a child.

Step 5: Forms

Once you have decided to move forward with the adoption process, you will need to complete various forms. These forms include medical and financial information.

Step 4: Home Study

The home study is a comprehensive evaluation of your family's ability to adopt a child. This evaluation will be conducted by a Family Services worker.

Step 3: Orientation

Interested individuals are referred to a local department of social services, or to a private child placing agency for more information.

Step 2: In-Home Interview

You and the child's agency will consider whether your family may be right for this child. At this point, you will be invited to an in-home interview to discuss your family and your desire to adopt.

Step 1: Initial Contact

If you feel that you may be interested in becoming a foster to adopt parent, you should contact your local department of social services. There are also listings of Virginia's waiting children available on adoptuskids.org/states/va/browse.aspx.

Remember:

- Initial adjustment concerns are to be expected. Talk about them early on: waiting too long may assume your new role as parents.
- Each child is unique and may have different needs and challenges. It is important to be flexible and open-minded.
- Supervision is an ongoing process and is necessary to ensure the child's well-being.
- Foster care professionals are available to provide guidance and support throughout the process.

Interested in becoming a foster to adopt parent? Several consecutive weeks of training are offered to interested individuals becoming interested in fostering and adoption! If you haven't already done so, be sure to increase the exposure of children waiting for adoption by simply “liking” or “retweeting” #WaitingChildWednesdays!