

What does it take to become a foster parent?

Becoming a licensed foster parent through the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah is simple:

- 1) Complete a Foster Care Application. Applications are available at the Behavioral Care Department.
- 2) Conduct a Home Study and complete background screenings. (*Please note: not all convictions prevent you from becoming a licensed foster care provider.*)
- 3) Attend foster care training classes. These classes are offered through the Tribe and teach foster parents about the changes that will take place in their life and in the lives of the child(ren) who come to live with them.

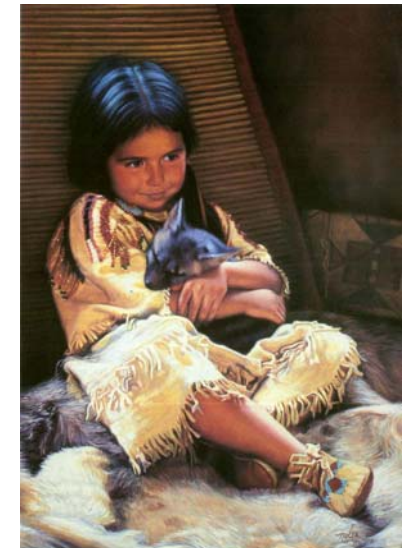
Time is what is initially asked of you to become a licensed foster parent. However, love, direction and safety become the gift you provide to children until they can be reunited with their family.



**For More Information
Please Contact:**

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
Behavioral Care Department
440 North Paiute Drive
Cedar City, UT 84721
(435) 586-1112
www.utahpaiutes.org

Indian Homes For Indian Children



**440 North Paiute Drive
Cedar City, Utah 84721
(435) 586-1112
fax (435) 586-7388
www.utahpaiutes.org**

Indian Homes For Indian Children is the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah's Foster Parent Program. It adheres to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) guidelines while providing training, licensing and support of Native American homes for the placement of Native American children.

Indian Homes For Indian Children is continually looking for additional foster homes for Paiute children. 75% of Paiute children taken into protective custody end up with non-native families for an extended period of time or permanently. **By sharing your home and becoming a foster parent you can help ensure that Paiute children stay in Paiute homes.**

Frequently Asked Questions about Foster Care

- ◆ Do I get paid for foster care?
- ◆ How long will I have the kids?
- ◆ Do I have to adopt kids?
- ◆ How long does it take to get licensed?
- ◆ How many kids will/can I have?
- ◆ Does this affect my tax liability?
- ◆ What are the expectations of my family?
- ◆ Who comes into my home?
- ◆ What ages are the children?
- ◆ Will the children have disabilities?
- ◆ What support can I expect for the children?

Why is becoming a foster parent important?

The PITU Indian Homes For Indian Children program was established in 2008. Since its inception, the program has licensed three homes and is currently working with an additional eight to complete licensing.

Despite the program's success there is critical need of additional Paiute homes to care for the Tribe's youth in protective care. At least 50 Paiute homes are needed to ensure that all areas of the Tribe's foster care needs are met, including emergency, respite, long-term and adoption.

By opening your home to Paiute youth, you are making certain that:

- 1) The Tribe can protect and promote the interests of its Tribal youth.
- 2) Tribal youth remain firmly connected to the community and to their culture.
- 3) Tribal sovereignty is reinforced by allowing the Tribe to care for its community needs.



Our children are our most valuable resource.

Statistics on Paiute Children and Foster Care

- ◆ Over 70% of Paiute children taken into protective care **never return** to their original home.
- ◆ 75% of Paiute children taken into protective custody **end up with non-native families** for an extended period of time or permanently.
- ◆ As of May 2009, the Paiute Tribe has only three fully licensed homes for foster care!
- ◆ Currently, the Paiute Tribe has no emergency placement shelters.
- ◆ As of May 2009, the Paiute Tribe has over 34 children in foster care. **ONLY 4** of them are in Paiute homes!
- ◆ **Less than 12% of our Paiute children return to their homes.** 88% are raised in State licensed homes!
- ◆ **15% of the Tribe's youth are currently in foster care.**

Nationally, the National Indian Child Welfare Act Association reported:

- ◆ Native American children are disproportionately represented in many state foster care systems. The over representation of Native children can be two to three times the rate of other populations in some states.
- ◆ Tribal governments provide foster care to 30 to 40 percent of all Native American children in care. Other Native American children are served by state and local governments.