

DCFS REGION 5 GUIDELINE to FOSTER CARE RATE ASSESSMENT FORM

This guideline is intended to assist social workers and foster parents to accurately and consistently complete the questions contained in the foster care rate assessment (DSHS 10-261).

As a routine part of their parenting responsibilities, foster parents “are responsible for protecting and nurturing children in a safe, healthy environment that provides positive support and supervision for the child in care” (WAC 388-25-0090). The foster rate assessment form is intended to identify and document the activities of the foster parent to meet those child needs which are outside the norm for a typically developing child of the same age.

The following are practice considerations for completing the foster care rate assessment.

- Social workers and foster parents should discuss and complete the form together for each child. It is best for this discussion to occur in person; however, a phone call is acceptable.
- Each section of the foster care rate assessment assesses specific areas in which the foster parent could be providing parenting activities which are outside the norm for a developmentally typical child of the same age.
- Foster parents who have multiple children placed in their homes can count individual hours when they are providing joint support for the children in their home, i.e. a foster parent completing 1 ½ hours of homework with two children at the table can count the hours for each child they assisted.
- Foster parent responses to each question should reflect an estimate of the average number of hours per week over the next six months that they will spend providing supports to meet the child’s special needs. To develop the estimate, foster parents and social workers should use what is known of the child’s needs and the foster parents’ time and ability to provide for those needs.
- A social worker may consider completing a new rate assessment prior to the required six month review if the child has additional service needs or is exhibiting new behaviors not captured by the previous rate assessment.
- When any number but the lowest is checked on the rate assessment, a description of the specific activities of the foster parent should be provided which explains the hours. The explanation should be behaviorally descriptive and include specific details such as frequency and duration.
- There are times when extra supports exist to meet a child’s needs (ex: a school Individualized Education Plan (IEP)). If the child’s needs in a certain area are met by another resource, the foster parent should not claim duplicate hours for that activity.
- For Level 2, 3, or 4 children, if a child is moving from one home to another, and both homes are providing the same structure, services, and support to the child in the home, the rate level in the previous home can be transferred to the new placement for 30 days until a rate assessment is completed with the new placement. This continuation of payment will require e-mail approval for Level 2 payments, and the AA approval for Level 3 or 4 payments.

If a rate level dispute cannot be resolved between the foster parent, social worker, supervisor, or Area Administrator, a review by the Dispute Resolution team should be requested. A request for a review by the Dispute Resolution Team can be made by either the social worker or the foster parent.

FOSTER CARE RATE ASSESSMENT

CHILD'S NAME: _____

DATE OF ASSESSMENT: _____

FOSTER PARENT NAME: _____

FOSTER PARENT ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PERSON COMPLETING FORM: _____

I. CARE OF THE CHILD

What is the average number of hours per week the foster parent will need to concentrate specifically in caring and/or advocating for and supervising this child for the following reasons?

a. **Physical Needs:**

What is the average number of hours per week the foster parent will need to spend providing the level of parental care, support and supervision necessary to meet the needs of the child due to the child's illness or special physical conditions?

0-2 hours per week 2-6 hours per week 6 + hours per week

Appropriate activities include time that is spent monitoring and assisting drug affected infants that have numerous waking and feeding schedules, assisting children with special physical conditions such as cleaning, clearing or monitoring special medical equipment (feeding tubes, trach tubes), time spent interacting with a bed-ridden child, transfer of child in wheelchair, or time spent using specialized equipment, etc.

Foster Parent Activities include: _____

b. **Behavioral Needs:**

What is the average number of hours per week the foster parent will need to spend providing the level of parental care, support and supervision to meet the needs of the child due to emotional, behavioral or mental conditions?

0-6 hours per week 6-18 hours per week 18-44 hours per week 44+ hours per week

This question focuses on the increased parenting time needed to manage the child's behaviors or provide comfort and support due to an underlying behavioral, emotional or mental condition. Activities may include but are not limited to: high needs supervision, re-directing, night terrors, de-escalating, debriefing, helping child deal with emotionally distressing situations, etc.

Foster Parent Activities include: _____

II. PARTICIPATION IN CHILD'S THERAPEUTIC PLAN:

What is the average number of hours per week the foster parent will need to spend participating in parental activities related to the child's physical, behavioral, emotional or mental health therapy?

a. **Physical Therapy Plan:**

What is the average number of hours per week the foster parent will need to spend providing parental activities consistent with the child's plan for physical therapy?

0-2 hours per week 2+ hours per week

This question is specifically for children who have physical therapy in which the foster parent is participating. This includes time spent with the physical therapist and time spent at home doing physical therapy activities that have been prescribed for the child by the physical therapist.

Foster Parent Activities include: _____

b. **Emotional/Behavioral Therapeutic Plan:**

What is the average number of hours per week the foster parent will need to spend providing parental activities consistent with the child's plan for the child's behavioral, emotional, or mental health therapy?

0-2 hours per week 2-6 hours per week 6-14 hours per week 14+ hours per week

This question is specifically for children who have a therapist, counselor, case manager or a behavior modification plan in which the foster parent is actually participating. This includes time spent with the therapist and the child during appointments. This also includes time spent at home by the foster parent on activities that have been suggested by their plan to assist the child in modifying their behavior, etc.

Foster Parent Activities include:

EDUCATION

What is the average number of hours per week the foster parent(s) will need to spend engaging in activities of parental support, advocacy and supervision to meet the educational needs of the child?

a. **Individual Interaction:**

What is the average number of hours per week the foster parent spends providing support and supervision of the child to assist with homework and/or other learning activities?

- 0-4 hours per week 4-8 hours per week 8-10 hours per week 10+ hours per week

Activities in this category may include helping toddlers and young children with learning activities which will assist the child in attaining developmental milestones. For older children it may include assisting with school readiness skills such as socialization and pre-reading activities, homework assistance, help with projects or other educational or learning activities as well as school support activities. Work with adolescents may include assisting them with vocational or college preparation activities including completing applications, researching program options and scholarships.

Foster Parent Activities include: ____

b. **Advocacy for Child**

What is the average number of hours per week the foster parent will spend on behalf of the child advocating for the child with teachers, being present at school, either on a planned or crisis basis, speaking on the phone with school personnel, participating in IEP development and review?

- 0-2 hours per week 2-4 hours per week 4+ hours per week

This category includes activities such as advocating with the school on behalf of the child, attending parent-child conferences, attending IEP meetings, speaking with school staff regarding academic or behavioral concerns, monitoring email and school web site information for progress, homework, and classroom updates, or advocating for the child in community learning opportunities, etc.

Foster Parent Activities include: ____

II. ARRANGING, SCHEDULING AND SUPERVISING

a. **Medical/Dental:**

What is the average number of hours per week the foster parent will need to spend scheduling appointments, accompanying the child to appointments and accomplishing all other parental responsibilities to ensure that the child obtains necessary medical and dental care?

0-2 hours per week 2-4 hours per week 4+ hours per week

*This category includes the time it takes to drive to and from all medical/dental appointments and counseling appointments, time the foster parent spends calling to make appointments, and time spent participating in or supervising these activities. It may also include time spent locating appropriate providers. It does not include time which was already counted such as time spent **participating** in either Physical Therapy or Mental Health Counseling.*

Foster Parent Activities include: _____

b. **Parental Visits/Other Activities:**

What is the average number of hours per week the foster parent will need to spend scheduling, accompanying and supervising parental and sibling visits, school or recreational activities?

0-2 hours per week 2-6 hours per week 6-8 hours per week 8+ hours per week.

This category includes time spent with children doing developmentally appropriate extracurricular activities such as Boy/Girl Scouts; sports; family outings; swimming lessons; music or dance lessons, camping trips etc.

Supervising parent or sibling visits, providing parent mentoring or coaching (as part of the child's service plan) are appropriate for inclusion here if payment is not being made from other funds.

Foster Parent Activities include: _____

IV. HOUSECARE

What is the average number of **times** per week the foster parent needs **to repair, replace or clean the home or household items**, over and above the normal repair, replacement and cleaning, **due solely to this child's condition or behavior** due to the following?

a. Chronic Conditions

Include time spent repairing, replacing and cleaning **due to chronic conditions (other than age) over which the child has little or no control**; such as frequent bed-wetting or incontinence, lack of muscle control or unawareness of the consequences of physical actions.

- 0-1 times per week 1-3 times per week 3-7 times per week 7+ times per week

This question focuses on children with chronic physical conditions, not children who require house care support due to behavioral problems or issues. House care hours required for children with behavioral issues can be documented in the next section.

Foster Parent Activities include: _____

b. Destructive Behavior

Include time spent repairing, replacing and cleaning due to the child's intentionally destructive behavior, including behavior caused by mental or emotional disturbances.

- 0-1 times per week 1-3 times per week 3+ times per week

This section focuses on destructive behaviors that are not developmentally appropriate and that are associated with a behavioral or emotional condition. It may include destructive tantrums in an older child, inappropriate urination or defecation that is purposeful etc. Foster parents may count the extra time they have taken from work to be home to locate a service provider, obtain repair estimates, or have repair work done.

Foster Parent Activities include: _____

III. PREPARING THE CHILD FOR TRANSITION

What is the average number of hours the foster parent will need to spend preparing the child for transition back to the birth family, to an adoptive family or other placement? Include time spent demonstrating positive parenting with birth and extend family, preparing a life book for the child, and other activities designed to create a smooth transition or to aid in emancipation to independent living.

- 0-2 hours per week 2+ hours per week

This category cannot be used for anything other than 0-2 hours unless there is a planned move for the child within the next few months and the foster parent is actively engaged in providing transition services for that move.

Hours foster parents spend providing Independent Living Skills training to youth who are preparing for adulthood can be documented in this section.

Foster Parent Activities include: _____

Social Worker Signature

Date

Supervisor Signature

Date