

The purpose of respite is to allow foster parents time to take care of themselves, to recharge when necessary and to tend to the needs of their own family. Foster parents are allotted twelve (12) respite days per year. For these twelve days, both the respite provider and the primary foster parent will be paid the board rate. If a foster parent uses more than 12 days of respite in a given year, the respite provider will be paid the board rate and the primary foster parent will not receive any payment for the child. Placement should be notified of the need for respite arrangements at least two (2) weeks prior to the respite date except in the event of an emergency. All foster parents are strongly encouraged to identify a friend, family member or neighbor who is willing to serve in the capacity of a back-up caregiver. All back-up caregivers must be cleared through the background screening process. A back-up caregiver can assist with respite to include overnights and general babysitting services. Respite that is provided by a back-up caregiver, rather than another foster parent, must take place in the licensed foster parent's home.