



## ***Foster parenting brings many rewards***

My name is Dana and I am the foster care supervisor at Warren County Children's Services. I also supervise and oversee out of home placements.

The most rewarding thing about being a foster parent is the relationship and bond I get to build with the child placed in my home. I absolutely love caring for him, watching him grow, and constantly learning new things. He is great source of joy in my life. The hardest thing about being a foster parent is the unknown. Not knowing when or if the child in your home will return to their biological family. It can be an unsettling feeling at times but I try to remind myself that it's all in God's plan.

My advice for new foster parents is be prepared to be unprepared. I don't think anything really prepares you for this experience. It's best if you can relax and try to be as easy going as possible.

I think working in child protective services has been helpful in my experience as a foster parent in some ways. I knew what to expect from a licensing standpoint so that process was pretty easy. However, things are different from county to county so it's always beneficial to ask questions even if you think you know the answer.