

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How do I request a Mentor?

The FPSS Area Coordinator welcomes all inquiries. If you hold a current Family Care Home Agreement contract with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or a Delegated Aboriginal Agency, and agree to the roles and responsibilities of being a Mentee, you will be considered an excellent candidate for the Mentoring program. Matches are made based on Mentor availability and suitability.

### 2. What kind of support can I expect from a Mentor?

Mentors are foster parents who wish to give back to the fostering community. Mentors have a wealth of knowledge, training and experience working in the foster care system representing a cross-section of the fostering community and levels of care. Mentors are trained to provide clear, practical, common sense information to foster parents. A Mentor can also help a new foster parent connect with the fostering community. Perhaps most importantly, a Mentor is a confidential person to speak to when you are having a bad day.

### 3. What are some examples of Mentor-Mentee activities?

There are a number of foster parent training events and workshops held at the FPSS Society you could attend together. There are also Foster Parent/Ministry Partnership meetings and forums which is a great venue to attend together. Mentors are also welcome to attend the BCFCE with the Mentee and brush up on some of their own skills, and/or visit events in the community together.

### 4. Am I expected to spend a certain amount of time with a Mentor?

Mentors are volunteers. Mentors must have a clear understanding of their time commitment and communicate their availability to the Mentee. The Mentor and Mentee are encouraged to set up a schedule that works for them.

### 5. What are the benefits of having a Mentor?

There are many benefits. We only have room to list a few. 1) The chance to connect with a peer who shares the same life experience is priceless. It just plain feels good. 2) Mentees have the opportunity to tap into a collective wealth of knowledge and experience that can only advance their skills as a foster parent in providing the best care possible to the children or youth in care. 3) The domino effect into family and community is immeasurable. 4) Your Resource social worker will appreciate your professional, team approach as a foster parent, and see that you are not fostering in isolation. This reduces the risk of allegations and advances your reputation in the fostering community.

### 6. What happens if a Mentor-Mentee relationship does not work out?

This can happen. The FPSS Area Coordinator may either suggest something to assist the relationship to continue, or find a more suitable match.

### 7. What if I have more questions?

Contact the FPSS Society Regional Office at 778-430-5460.

## Mentor Application Process

### What are the Prerequisites of a Mentee?

1. Holds a current Family Care Home Agreement contract with the Ministry of Children and Family Development or a Delegated Aboriginal Agency;
2. Is the main caregiver and/or the one most available to meet with the Mentor; and
3. Is willing to accept invitations to attend FPSS Society networking opportunities, information forums and training events, either with a Mentor or on their own.

### What are the roles and responsibilities of being a Mentee?

1. Responds to Mentor phone calls, emails, etc.; and
2. When able, participates in monthly (or semi-monthly) Mentor-Mentee peer-led support groups (such as coffee support meetings and other FPSS Society networking events).

### What is the application and matching process?

1. FPSS Area Coordinator receives a referral from an interested foster parent or from the Resource social worker.
2. FPSS Area Coordinator meets with or calls caregiver to provide information on the FPSS Mentoring Program.
3. Mentee completes and signs the Mentor Request form.
4. FPSS Area Coordinator keeps the original form and gives the Mentee a photocopy.
5. FPSS Area Coordinator makes match based on Mentor availability and suitability.

**Please review and sign below, and return with the completed [Request for Mentor form](#)**

1. I wish to participate as a Mentee in the FPSS Mentoring Program;
2. I agree to fulfill my roles and responsibilities as Mentee to the best of my ability;
3. I agree to communicate with the FPSS Area Coordinator when direction is needed; and
4. I have read and understand the [Mentor Code of Conduct](#) on the [Mentor Request form](#)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mentee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I love being a Mentor. I truly believe we can all provide better service to the children and families we serve by being connected and supported. This work is extremely difficult and hard on the heart. There is a lot to know and a lot to learn. It is vital that foster parents have someone to talk to and be heard.

-Sandy C. Foster Parent Mentor, Victoria, BC