

# Providing special care for children with emotional disturbances.

**I**daho's Therapeutic Foster Care Program provides natural home settings for children with emotional and behavioral problems.

**Some of these children have been removed from their own home to protect them from mistreatment. In other cases, the family has turned to foster care for help because they are unable to meet the child's needs in their home.**

In both instances, the goal of therapeutic foster care is to ensure children have a stable and supportive home environment in their own community so they can receive the treatment they need to live happier and healthier lives.

#### **Therapeutic foster care is a team effort.**

Foster care is always a team effort, but it's especially true for therapeutic foster care. Foster parents receive extensive training and are assigned children's mental health clinicians, who oversee the child's treatment and are available to respond to any concerns that might arise.

Idaho takes a "system of care" approach to treating children with emotional and behavioral problems.

Child-focused and family driven, this method produces results because it integrates the resources of the family, school district, and community with child-serving agencies like the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and private providers. Foster families benefit by having access to these resources and professionals who are familiar with the child and their needs.

Foster families also benefit from the involvement of the child's parents or primary caregiver. Maintaining the child's support network is essential to effective treatment and allows some of the responsibilities to be shared, easing the foster family's burden.

#### **Foster families receive the day-to-day support they need.**

Individuals or families participating in Idaho's foster care program are reimbursed for expenses resulting from providing daily care. Therapeutic foster families receive additional financial support in recognition of the special demands required by the program.

#### **Idaho children need your help.**

Every Idaho child deserves the chance to live a happy, healthy life. For some children with emotional and behavioral problems, the odds of getting that chance are not always favorable, which is why it's so important for caring individuals and families to open their hearts and homes and become therapeutic foster parents. It's an enriching personal experience that will make a world of difference to children in need.

**Call the Idaho Careline at 211 or 1-800-926-2588 for additional information on Idaho's Therapeutic Foster Care Program.**

