

# Foster Parent Training: Caring for Disabled Children in Texas Foster Care

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## 1. Overview of Common Disabilities in Foster Care

Foster parents in Texas play a crucial role in the care and support of children with disabilities. These children may present with a variety of needs ranging from physical and developmental to intellectual and sensory impairments. Understanding the specific challenges and available resources is essential to providing effective, compassionate care. Texas state law, federal mandates such as the ADA and IDEA, and DFPS standards all outline specific requirements and protections for these children. Foster parents must be familiar with these guidelines to advocate for proper services, ensure safe living environments, and collaborate with medical, educational, and social service professionals.

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## **2. Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

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## **3. Understanding Service and Support Systems**

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#### **4. Communication and Advocacy**

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## **5. Home Adaptations and Accessibility**

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## **6. Managing Medical Needs and Therapy Coordination**

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## **7. Emotional and Behavioral Support Strategies**

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## **8. Collaboration with Biological Families and Permanency Planning**

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## **9. Self-Care and Support for Foster Parents**

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## **10. Case Examples and Best Practice Checklists**

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