



Tikinagan

Child & Family Services

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin

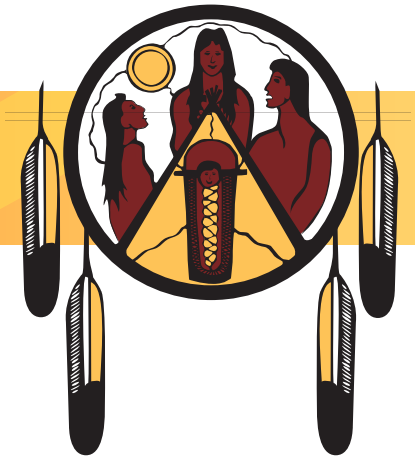
"Everyone Working Together to Raise our Children"



Become a Foster Parent.
Make a Difference.

www.tikinagan.org

It is a Shared
Responsibility of a Community...



Become a Foster Parent. **Make a Difference.**

Tikinagan provides support and services for families who are experiencing difficulties, and works to help these families find resources to heal. Whenever possible, we work to keep children and families together, and to help parents care for their children.

Some situations, however, require that children live apart from their families for a time. Some of these children can stay with their kokums and shoomas (grandmas and grandpas). Some can stay with other family members, or with friends. However, some children don't have these options. Tikinagan is committed to keeping our children within our communities, but to make this happen, we need your help.

“ Tikinagan is Committed to Keeping our
Children within Our Communities.” ”

By being a foster parent, you can make a real difference in the life of a child. When their families are unable to care for them, you can help children stay in their home community, and stay connected to extended family, friends and their culture and traditions.

Foster Parents

Foster parents are everyday people who come from all walks of life - homemakers, councillors, grandparents, etc. They work at the community store, the nursing station, the school or in the band office. The list is long. Foster parents can be married or single or separated. They can have their own children, or not. The key requirement is your willingness to help a child.

Foster parents are very important to us and are essential to successfully delivering our services. Although the legal responsibility for the child remains with the agency, the foster parents play a very important role in the child's life.

Foster Children

A foster child may be a baby, a toddler, a young child, or a teenager to 16 years of age. A few of our children in care are physically, mentally or emotionally challenged and require special care to be able to enjoy the benefits of daily life.

Foster children need the kind of care and stability that a foster family can offer. Most require not only warmth and acceptance but also guidance, direction, structure, love and understanding.

Being a Foster Parent

Foster parents provide a nurturing safe home for foster children, many of whom have had traumatic experiences in their lives. Foster parents tend to the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional needs of the children. They provide nourishing meals, a warm place to sleep, a comfortable happy place to live, safe from harm. They listen. They love. They try to understand.

Foster parents do a lot of things for a child. Much depends on the individual child's needs. But much is just healthy role modelling and compassion for a child whose life might be in turmoil.

Fostering is a valuable community service and also offers a very rewarding experience for foster parents.



Supporting Foster Parents

Tikinagan has a Residential Services Unit focused on developing a range of foster care options for children and youth who need to come into Tikinagan care. This unit offers programs and services to foster parents to assist them in providing the best possible environment for our children.

We provide foster parents with:

- 1 Orientation on the role of a Tikinagan foster parent
- 2 Ongoing training and education, including meeting the special needs of children placed in your care
- 3 Support services provided by an assigned residential care worker who will also advocate for the foster parent
- 4 Emergency support and crisis intervention 24 hours a day
- 5 Respite care options such as alternate placement of the child or alternate caregiver for the child
- 6 Financial reimbursement by a daily rate for regular food and accommodation expenses as well as allowances for special expenses such as clothing, school recreation and health care

You are not alone. Foster Parents are a valuable part of a team dedicated to planning and meeting the needs of children in care.

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin

Tikinagan provides services using a service model called Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin which means “everyone working together to raise our children”. Everyone in the community, including parents, extended family, Elders, chief and council, local service providers and Tikinagan, are responsible for protecting and caring for children.

Key aspects of Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin include:

- 1 Protecting and caring for children is a community responsibility
- 2 Culturally appropriate services based on traditional practices and values
- 3 Services are designed & delivered by First Nations people
- 4 Recognizes inherent authority of First Nations over child welfare

Our policies and procedures are built around this model, but more importantly we endeavor to work within the true spirit of Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin based on First Nations' values and principles. We reflect this in all our services especially caring and planning for children and youth in our care and supporting foster parents.

How You Can Become a Foster Parent

We are looking for people who care about children, enjoy the challenges of parenting and want to work with others to meet children's needs. All members of your family must share your interest in fostering. We are seeking families that live in First Nation communities served by Tikinagan.

- Call Tikinagan Child and Family Services telephone intake
- Write to Tikinagan at the address listed, or
- Talk to any Tikinagan Child and Family Service Worker

You will be put in touch with a Residential Care Worker who can give you more information on foster parenting including the process and requirements for becoming a foster parent.



Tikinagan Child & Family Services

Residential Care Services PO Box 627
Sioux Lookout, Ontario P8T 1B1

P: 807 737-3466 TF: 1 800 465-3624