



## Getting Through the Certification Process

**Understand that the certification process is time-consuming and, at times, invasive because the safety and well-being of precious children are paramount.** Be thoughtful and honest when describing your background and family history. As much we want to be perceived as “the perfect family”, the home study worker needs to see the real, unvarnished truth.

**Provide clear, legible copies of all documents.** Finding legal documents can be a challenge, but remembering kids in foster care have experienced true pain should make what’s really just inconvenient well worth the trouble.

**Keep a checklist of tasks and forms.** Some sort of system saves countless hours in the long run.

**Carefully prepare and keep your home safe for children.** We may grumble about the inconvenience of securing medications and cleaning products in upper cabinets but when new children arrive at your home, you have no idea how curious and quick they may be!

**Build positive relationships and a strong support system.** Include your case worker, family, friends and other foster and adoptive families. Be a team player. Be proactive and patient. Pay attention to detail but forget and forgive mistakes. Listen, ask questions and listen again. Follow through in a timely way. Invite friends and family to attend Project 1.27’s Support Team Training so they understand how they can be of help.

**Keep learning.** Parenting kids who are experiencing deep grief, loss and change requires additional skill and knowledge.

**Trust God.** He is a faithful, trustworthy guide. Certification can be frustrating. There’s a lot of hurry up and wait. There’s disappointment. The process may trigger past wounds that need to be addressed. Fear of inadequacy or the wellbeing of existing children or making a wrong decision can overwhelm, even paralyze.