




## 9 Things

### Churches Should Know About Child Abuse in Lorain County


1. 4,912 children were reported as abused or neglected in 2015.
2. Our community's children are mostly affected by neglect (1282) then physical abuse (999.)
3. Most children can be protected safely at home with the right community supports and resources.
4. If children cannot  stay at home, relatives are sought out so the child can stay with familiar people.
5. If relatives aren't available to care for a child, the child can stay with a local foster family trained and licensed through Lorain County Children Services.
6. In 2015, 225 children stayed with relatives. 77 additional children from our community entered foster care.
7. Foster parents can be married or single. They can own or rent.
8. Foster parents receive 36 hours of training, a background check and a homestudy prior to being licensed.
9. In 2015, 22 children were not able to go back home and were adopted, most often by their foster parents.

**For more information, please contact Lorain  
County Children Services at 440-329-5340 or visit  
[ChildrenServices.org/FaithCommunity](http://ChildrenServices.org/FaithCommunity)**



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### Churches Can Do to Help Abused Children


1. Connect with Lorain County Children Services at 440-329-5340 or through [childrenservices.org/faithcommunity](http://childrenservices.org/faithcommunity)
2. Offer parenting classes and open your nursery so parents will have a place for their children while attending your classes.
3. Start a Grandparents Support Group for grandparents raising grandchildren while their parents are receiving services from Children Services.
4.  Encourage friends and members of your congregation to consider becoming a foster parent. Offer to host an Information Session at your church. Call Children Services should you need a guest speaker.
5. If considering becoming a foster parent, commit to attending an Information Session to learn more. Schedules are posted on [ChildrenServices.org](http://ChildrenServices.org) or call 440-329-5340 for a flyer.
6. Teach your staff how to report child abuse and call Lorain County Children Services if you suspect abuse or neglect.
7. Speak up for an abused/neglected child and make a difference in their life. Voices for Children, Lorain County CASA program. [WWW.vfclc.org](http://WWW.vfclc.org) or 440-329-5158.
8. Support efforts to prevent abuse and neglect by connecting with Blessing House, a children's crisis center in Lorain County. [www.blessinghouse.org](http://www.blessinghouse.org) 440-240-1851
9. **Pray on Blue Sunday Day of Prayer, April 24th. We pray because they shouldn't have to pray alone.**

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