

里親の複数養育の現状と課題について：
里親委託率の上昇に伴う今後のあり方

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Multiple Foster Children in a Foster Home: Current State and Issues

SHIRAI Chiaki

As fostering placements increase, the percentage of foster parents fostering more than one foster child is expected to increase. Raising multiple foster children in a foster family presents different challenges than raising multiple so-called biological children. These include foster children's experiences of abuse, their special needs, such as attachment disorders and developmental disabilities, foster parents' involvement from the middle of their foster children's lives, their different backgrounds, the varying duration of their care, and the fact that they suddenly become members of a family as if they were siblings.

This paper summarizes the current situation and challenges of simultaneously fostering multiple foster children based on the results of a questionnaire survey of foster parents. The results show that one out of three foster parents had fostered multiple children at the same time, but most were entrusted as foster parents rather than as expert foster parents, most were fostering children with disabilities, and most of them were dual income. When we examined the experiences and thoughts about multiple fostering that the respondents wrote in their open-ended responses, the following categories emerged: dealing with individuality, relationships between children, age differences between children and the consignment order, physical problems, disabilities, parenting experiences, sexual relationships between children, sibling cases, and good things about fostering multiple children. Some situations in which fostering more than one foster child is difficult were anticipated, and the need for careful consignment, admission care, functional differentiation of foster parents, and support for foster parents were raised.