



# Agency Values Statement

For nearly 50 years, Childplace, Inc has been meeting the needs of children and families by providing a place of hope and healing for some of the most vulnerable and neglected members of society. The agency's mission states, **"Childplace exists to serve children at risk by meeting their needs and equipping them for life in a spirit of Christian love."**

The following "C's" provide an impression of the core values of the agency:

**CHRISTIAN** – Childplace, Inc is an organization that sees the process of healing and instilling hope as including spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical components. The agency's founding roots and principles are linked with the Churches of Christ, and the agency remains associated with the church through historical ties, financial support, and leadership on the agency's board of directors. The evangelical heritage and focus of the agency is one of attraction over promotion. Childplace actively seeks to recruit staff and foster parents from churches, Christian organizations, services clubs, local academic institutions, and para-church ministries.

**CHILDREN** – Childplace staff and foster parents value the intrinsic worth of life, and each staff member and foster parent places a premium on the care and wellbeing of children as well as on the significance and value of each and every person. Understanding that children, particularly children at risk, are some of the most vulnerable individuals in society, Childplace staff and foster parents prioritize providing a safe, nurturing environment for children and families. Childplace staff and foster parents also understand the societal importance of the wellbeing and healthy development of the next generation.

**CHARACTER** – Childplace seeks to employ individuals and work with foster parents who possess a high-degree of character to serve as models for the children and families entrusted to the care of Childplace, Inc—therefore, a Childplace staff member or a foster parent should seek to project a positive attitude, encourage others, and avoid lies, profanity, gossip, and other degrading language. A staff member or foster parent should prioritize personal and moral/spiritual development so that he/she is continually growing in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**CLINICAL** – As an agency with a full-time psychiatrist and multiple master-level, licensed clinicians on staff, the agency is committed to utilizing professional, evidence-based, best-practice treatments for children and families that are appropriate for the issues and needs of the clients routinely served by Childplace, Inc.—treatment practices and philosophies that are professional, proven effective, and resonate with the agency's additional values.

**CHURCH & COMMUNITY** – Understanding that personal and moral/spiritual development often occurs in positive associations, Childplace staff members and foster parents are encouraged to participate in a healthy church or similar organization for community, support, connection, and growth, and Childplace places a premium on family/community supports.

**CONNECTION** – Childplace especially values and seeks out homes with both a mother and father, but also honors and appreciates the efforts of single parents and all families. The needs of the foster or adoptive child come first, and the importance of each and every person having a family with whom he/she can connect with for support, encouragement, and a sense of belonging for one’s entire life is a critical ethos of the agency.

**COMPASSIONATE** – Childplace seeks to employ staff and work with foster parents who are humble and empathetic; individuals who understand that not all people respond to similar life stressors in comparable ways; individuals who have the capacity for warmth, empathy and respect.

**COMMITTED** – Childplace seeks to employ staff and work with foster parents who take the opportunity of serving children and families seriously and are committed to working hard in providing a safe, positive, nurturing environment; individuals who are responsible for representing the agency with a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and sense of responsibility.

**COMPETENT** – Childplace seeks to employ staff and work with foster parents who are personally stable and mature; individuals who present with emotional health, personal insights, and an awareness of their skills and potential areas for growth; individuals who are “caring” and “compassionate,” but also understand the essential importance of healthy boundaries between staff/foster parents and children/families of the children entrusted to their care.

**CONDUCT** – While Childplace does not desire to actively monitor or serve as a censoring agent for the agency’s employees or foster parents, the agency does understand that every employee and foster parent is a representative of the agency and model for children and families served. Therefore, the agency expects employees and foster parents to refrain from any illegal behavior or illicit drug use, and to be conscientious of entertainment and life-style choices that could potentially compromise one’s wellbeing and moral/spiritual development and the witness of the agency—therefore, the agency would, for example, encourage staff and foster parents to refrain from the engagement in co-habitational relationships, the use or possession of sexually obscene or pornographic material, and to be mindful of the potential ill-effects and abuse of alcohol and tobacco products.

**COLLABORATION** – Since Childplace’s beginning in the late 60’s, the agency has been connecting and working collaboratively with the States of Indiana and Kentucky by adhering to the States’ expectations as a licensed provider for foster care, adoption, and multiple residential treatment options. This connection allows Childplace the opportunity to advance the agency’s mission and serve some of the most vulnerable and often neglected individuals in society. As the agency continues to meet the needs of these children and families, the agency is dedicated to remaining committed to the aforementioned values while working collaboratively with the States of Indiana and Kentucky and following the expectations set forth by the governing organizations of both states.