

THE ADMISSION PROCESS

1. Contact the Oblong Children's Christian Home by calling 618.592.3633. We conduct initial screenings by phone.
2. Complete the application and send any counseling and special education records to the Home.
3. If it appears that the Children's Home may be able to help the child and if there is an opening, a pre-placement visit is scheduled. The pre-placement visit involves the parents and child. The family comes to the campus to meet with our staff so that we can better understand the family situation and the family can better understand the Children's Home program. After an interview, the child stays at the Home over the weekend. *(Please bring the child's insurance card to this visit.)*
4. At the end of the visit, the child returns home. Parents decide whether the Oblong Children's Christian Home is the best possible place for the child, and staff members, likewise, determine whether the program will be of help to the child. Houseparents also consider how the admission will affect other children in their home.
5. Within three days of the pre-placement visit, the staff notifies the parents regarding an acceptance decision. A placement date is then set.
6. Parents should bring the following records to the placement meeting.
 - Certified birth certificate (not a photocopied certificate or a hospital record)
 - Child's Social Security card
 - Physical examination record less than 30 days old
 - Dental exam record less than 6 months old
 - Copy of insurance identification card
 - Divorce decree (if applicable), indicating that the parent signing placement papers has legal custody
 - Copy of transcript or report card
 - Up-to-date immunization record
 - Probation documentation (if applicable)
 - Interstate compact (for out-of-state placement)
7. At the placement meeting, goals of placement are finalized, and placement papers are signed. (Parent retains legal custody.)

THE OBLONG CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN HOME IS A MINISTRY OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST AND CHRISTIAN CHURCHES. CHILDREN OF ALL FAITHS ARE ACCEPTED INTO OUR FAMILY-STYLE HOMES. THE HOME RECEIVES NO STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDING.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"[The Oblong Children's Christian Home] changed my life in the greatest way. Without the Home, I wouldn't be where I am today."

-Jabari

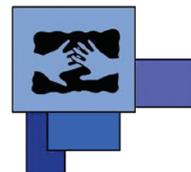


"...[Living at the Children's Home taught me the true meaning of love. . . unconditional love. [It was] a great place to learn. The McCarters are still family to me. I enjoy having a good relationship with them."

-Tabitha

"[I]t helped me and my family, but it's not something that is easy. It's not a change that's going to happen overnight. You need to work on it as an individual and set goals for yourself. It's not what the program makes out of you; it's what you make out of the program."

-Emilee



**Oblong Children's
Christian Home**
4094 E. 1050th Ave.
Oblong, IL 62449

**Help for children.
Hope for families.
Healing through Christ.**

**The Oblong Children's
Christian Home**



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Christian Home**

4094 E. 1050th Ave.
Oblong, IL 62449

618.592.3633
618.592.6061 (FAX)

office@oblongchristianhome.org

www.oblongchristianhome.org

When seeking out-of-home placement for a child, there is brokenness, strife, and desperation. The Oblong Children's Christian Home could be the place where you find hope.

The Oblong Children's Christian Home provides residential care in a Christian environment to children who are between the ages of 5 and 16 at the time of admission. The length of care depends on how quickly the child and his/her family can achieve the goals established at placement. Progress toward these goals is reviewed at six-month intervals.



WE WANT WHAT YOU WANT

A FAMILY FEEL. On our campus, married couples, who are experienced and have been trained to work with challenging children, provide unconditional love, structure, and guidance in a family-style setting. Children live in homes, not dorms. Meals are served at a dining room table, not in a cafeteria. This is home.

AN INVITATION TO KNOW JESUS. A spiritual foundation is the primary strength of our program. Daily, houseparents share in a devotional time with children.

The family worships together at a local Christian Church or Church of Christ each Sunday. Children participate in youth group activities and church camp.

AN OPEN DOOR FOR COUNSELING AND COMMUNICATION. Each child participates in weekly counseling sessions, addressing subjects such as anger management, communicating with authority figures, and family living skills. Tenderheartedness is often revealed in troubled children when they participate in our horsemanship program. Sometimes counseling and communicating are best experienced in unconventional ways.

AN EMPHASIS ON CHILDREN'S STRENGTHS AND ABILITIES. At placement, each child selects at least one strength that he/she wants to develop. The staff, child, and family work together to develop this unique ability. Houseparents also work with children to identify an internal strength (e.g., hospitality, caring, determination, respect) that is unrelated to skill, but praiseworthy. These strengths are stretched and further developed in our program as well.

AN EXPECTATION FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. At the time of placement, elementary-aged children and junior high students attend New Hebron Christian School. High school-aged children attend New Life Academy, which is an individually paced academic program on our campus. After the first semester, the child care team, with input from parents, evaluates whether the child will be best served by one of the Christian schools or the public school.



Children often participate in extracurricular activities such as a little league baseball, football, cheerleading, volleyball, and rodeo. Children also give back to the community. Each summer our children are responsible for clean-up daily at the county fair, and during the fall festival in Oblong, we pick up trash in town after the day-long festivities and nighttime parade.



STAYING CONNECTED

Family involvement is an important part of our program. Family responsibilities are listed below.

1. Call your child at a regular time each week and talk with the houseparents each time you call.
2. Support the program and houseparents. Talk directly with the houseparents about role conflicts.
3. Participate in the monthly family development meetings and meet with the child's family counselor at that time.
4. With the counselor and houseparents, arrange a monthly visit for your child.
5. Meet your financial obligations. (The parent's share of the cost of care is normally 10% of the family income. However, no child is ever turned away for financial reasons.)
6. Set an example for your child by growing personally and spiritually.
7. Pray for your child and his/her houseparents daily.
8. With the staff, plan your child's orderly dismissal from the program.