

25 Questions to Consider Before Becoming A Foster Parent

Here are some questions to consider as you inquire about becoming a foster, kinship, adoptive or developmental home provider.



casa de los niños

1. How will my lifestyle change when I become a foster parent?
2. Is my job flexible enough that I can ensure that the child attends medical and counseling appointments, or that I can stay home if the child is sick?
3. How can I/my family benefit from being a foster parent?
4. What do I know about raising a child?
5. What resources do I have available to me?
6. Do I know where my home school is? Daycare? Urgent care?
7. Are we willing to care for a boy/girl? A child with a different culture than ours? Different religious practices and beliefs?
8. How does my family feel about being a foster family? What does my family offer?
9. Does my extended family support this idea?
10. Are my own children willing to give up toys? Time with their parents? Share a room?
11. How will I be able to work with a child's birth parent or primary caregiver?
12. What do I know about behaviors? Trauma? Developmental delays? Drug exposure?
13. Do I have valuables in my home that I would have to put away or secure?
14. Financially can I meet the needs of another child? Two children?
15. Do I have any medical needs that limit my ability to parent? Physically am I able to carry/lift things?
16. Mentally do I get stressed easily? Do I have medication that affects my level of alertness or energy?
17. Am I willing to have professionals involved in the child's case come to my home on a monthly basis? Weekly basis? Daily basis?
18. Do I have safe, reliable transportation? Can I fit another car seat in my car?
19. Is my home in good repair? Are there any environmental dangers for a child? Can I afford to make necessary repairs? Am I willing to abide by health and safety guidelines?
20. How will my dog or cat react to a child? A baby? A teen?
21. How do I work in partnership with others? Am I able to collaborate with others? Can I keep my opinions to myself? Am I a team player?
22. What are my expectations? Hopes? Desires?
23. Can I support a child returning home to people that caused the harm?
24. What if I am investigated? What risk am I willing to expose my children to?
25. Can I ask for help? Can I identify that I need help?