

Questions to Discuss Before Fostering



We believe it is critically important that parents who are preparing to foster be honest and realistic about the journey and the challenges that lie ahead. We encourage you to thoughtfully consider and honestly assess these questions.

1

Are you willing to acknowledge and fully embrace the child's history, including that which you know and that which you will likely never know?

2

Are you willing to accept that the child has been affected by his/her history, possibly in profound ways, and as a result that you will need to parent the child in a way that exhibits true compassion and promotes connection and healing?

3

Are you willing to parent differently than how you were parented, how you have parented in the past, or how your friends parent their children?

4

Are you willing to educate yourself, your family, and your friends on an ongoing basis in order to promote an understanding of the child's needs and how best to meet those needs?

5

Are you willing to advocate for the child's needs, including at school, church, and extracurricular settings, in order to create predictability and promote environments that enable the child to feel safe and allow him/her to succeed?

6

Are you willing to sacrifice your own convenience, expectations and desires in order to connect with your child and help him/her heal, even if that process is measured in years, not months?

7

Are you willing to acknowledge that you as a parent bring a great deal to the equation when it comes to how your child will attach and connect? Are you willing to honestly examine your motivations & expectations? Are you willing to look at your own past (including your past losses and trauma, both big and small) & consider how it may impact your interactions with your child?

8

Are you willing to seek ongoing support and maintain long-term connections with others who understand your journey and the challenges that you face? Are you willing to intentionally seek and accept help when you encounter challenges with your child that you are not equipped to adequately deal with?

9

Are you willing to be misunderstood, criticized and even judged by others who do not understand your child's history, the impacts of that history and how you have been called to love and connect with your child in order to help him/her heal and become all that God intends?

Check out our website for next steps including certification links by state

