

The following questions will help you assess whether you have the characteristics common to most successful foster parents, and whether your current life circumstances are favorable for foster parenting. It's important to consider each item carefully and answer as honestly as you can.

Are you ready?

- Do you love children and truly want to help them?
- Are you flexible and able to adapt to changing situations?
- Are you emotionally secure and confident you can be a good parent?
- Can you accept a child who may not immediately respond to you?
- Can you love a child despite his or her behavioral problems?
- Can you set firm limits and standards of behavior, then discipline consistently with patience when the child disobeys?
- Can you view small improvements as victories and accept setbacks as normal?
- Can you accept and nurture a child with the ultimate goal of returning that child to his/her birth family?
- Do you have a healthy sense of humor?

Is your family ready?

- Do all family members understand and support your commitment to foster parenting?
- Are your immediate family relationships stable?
- Is your family ready to share your home with a foster child?
- Is your home large enough to comfortably accommodate another person?

Is it the right time in your life?

- Is your household employment situation stable?
- Is your lifestyle a good role model for a foster child?
- Can you devote significant time and energy to a foster child?
- Do you have time to transport a foster child to meetings and appointments?

