

What do I know about raising a child?

- Do I like children?
- Will I be able to put up with the noise and confusion?
- How do I deal with my own frustration and anger?
- How do I handle other people's anger and frustration?
- How easy is it for me to tell others what I want or what I expect from them?
- How will I set my rules and enforce them?
- Am I able to give a child the love he/she needs?
- What is discipline to me?
- Am I open to new ideas?
- What will I do if a child doesn't cooperate with me or refuses to follow my rules?
- Can I keep the information that I learn about a child confidential?
- How does my family feel about being a foster family?
- Does my partner also want to share his/her life with a foster child?
- How about my own children?
- Have we discussed fostering as a family?
- Are we secure and stable enough to add a foster child to our family?
- Will this cause undue stress?
- Are we both ready to give the time and energy to a child?
- Will one of us invest more in a child than the other? Can we be a team?
- Could we share our love with a child without other family members becoming jealous?
- How will a child fit into our religious life?
- Are we willing to allow that child to pursue his/her own beliefs, or to choose not to attend church?
- How will my children accept another child into their lives?
- Do they want to share their rooms, toys, friends, and parents with another child?
- How will I feel when that child leaves my home to be reunified with their family?

How will my lifestyle change if I become a foster parent?

- What goals do I have for my life? What is important to me?
- Do I have the time and energy to care for a foster child?
- What age child will realistically be best for my family?
- Am I ready to give up some of my freedom, or arrange my lifestyle to include a child?
- Will I be willing to spend my time at home more and socialize less?
- Can I afford my own expenses, knowing that compensation for having a foster child will be only enough for the child's needs?
- How will a child fit into my neighborhood?
- How will being a foster parent change how I want to grow and develop?
- How much time am I willing to commit to a child?
- Am I willing and able to take a child to counseling sessions, doctor's appointments, court hearings and other regular appointments?
- Am I willing to attend counseling sessions with the child?

How can I benefit from being a foster parent?

- Do I like doing things with children?
- Do I like activities that children could also do?
- How will I view a child's different values and ideas? Will I attempt to get the child to accept my values?
- Do I want to foster a boy or girl?
- How about siblings and teenagers? What Ages?
- Do I want acceptance or gratitude from a foster child?
- Why do I really want to take a foster child into my home?