

DON'T FORGET TO ASK

Foster parents often wish they had asked more questions before accepting a child into their home. The list below is designed to assist you in your discussion with the placing worker. (Not all questions apply to emergency placements.)

1. Why is this child being placed?
2. What is the previous placement experience of the child?
3. What is the child's legal status?
4. What is the family situation?
5. What is the plan for the child? Expected length of placement?
6. What will my role as foster parent be in the reunification?
7. What is the child's understanding of why he has been moved/separated from his birth parents?
8. Will there be a pre-placement visit?
9. Where are the birth parents?
10. Give me a clear understanding of the rights of the child's birth parents and the plan for visitation. Who may visit? Who may not visit? Where can visiting take place? When? How often?
11. Have the birth parents been dangerous or threatening in the past?
12. Have the parents made complaints against other foster parents? If so, what was the complaint?
13. Has the child made complaints against other foster parents? If so, what was the complaint?
14. Are there brothers and sisters? If so, where are they and what is the visitation plan?
15. Is the child in good health? Allergies, immunizations, dental care? What are the plans for current and future medical and dental care? When was the last physical?
16. Is the child taking any medications at this time? Will there be written instructions regarding medications or prescriptions?
17. School – What grade is the child in? Are there school problems? Who is the educational surrogate parent? (Birth parent? Foster parent? Other?) Name of the last 2 schools attended. Achievement level and /or any special problems?

18. Does the child have any special behavior problems, unusual habits, or dangerous propensities?

Child's Behavior Patterns/Problems/Dangerous Propensities:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overly Aggressive | <input type="checkbox"/> Sets Fires | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually Acts Out | <input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bed Wets | <input type="checkbox"/> Hyperactive | <input type="checkbox"/> Steals | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually Active |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Runs Away | <input type="checkbox"/> Lies | <input type="checkbox"/> Hurts Animals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Destructive | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance User | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

19. What will make the child feel most at home? What are the child's food likes and dislikes? favorite toy? sleep habits? Etc.

20. Religious affiliation? Is it important? Does foster parent need to make special arrangements to have the child attend services, education classes, etc.?

21. Does the child qualify for a special rate? If so, when is the effective date?

22. Does the child have adequate clothing? Will there be a clothing allowance? If so, when can foster parent expect to receive the clothing allowance check?

23. What are your (social worker) expectations of me (foster parent)?

24. What is the name and phone number of your supervisor?

25. Who is the attorney for the child, if any, and his/her phone number?

26. What do I do and who do I call in case of a weekend or evening emergency?

27. When will I receive the following placement information?

- Medical Consent Form
- Medical Card (BIC)
- Placement Agreement Form (must include name of social worker, supervisor, payment rate, effective date, case number, and signature.)
- Dangerous Propensities Form, if appropriate.