

Questions for Foster Parents

Biological Parents may ask a lot of questions of foster parents or may not ask many. They may not be sure what they can ask or what they should ask. If asked nothing share with them what you think you would want to know if the roles were reversed. Take time to understand where their question may be coming from.

Foster parents should be prepared to answer the following questions:

1. How is the foster child doing?
 - a. How is the child sleeping?
 - i. Is the child sleeping through the night?
 - ii. If applicable, is the child taking naps?
 - b. Was the child able to go back to his/her same school/daycare the next day?
 - c. How is the child doing at meals? Is he/she eating?
2. Tell the biological parents a little bit about yourself
 - a. How long have you been a foster parent?
 - b. Who lives in the foster home (including pets)?
 - c. What activities do you do with the foster children for fun?
 - d. What is your daily routine for the foster children?
 - e. Are there other individuals that will provide care for the foster children?
 - f. Do you practice a religion?
3. Tell the biological parents about the home/apartment that the foster parent resides in?
 - a. Where do the foster children sleep, and do they each have their own room
 - b. If possible, bring pictures of the home itself and the room that the foster children sleep in.
4. Providing pictures to biological parents of the child in your home is a great way to build rapport and build trust. In accordance with court ordered visitation agreements, provide the biological parent with a way to contact you (email, cell phone, home phone number Google Voice etc.)

Questions for Biological Parents

Remember the goal is to make a connection and work as part of the same team for the child. Establish with the biological parents that you are open to communication and that you want to provide good care for their child. This shows them respect of the parent and builds rapport. Be aware of how you are asking biological parents questions and that biological parents may not be able to provide a specific answer. Review your list of questions and ask what you feel is most important first in case you cannot achieve them all. Hesitate firing questions at them and ask open ended, such as, “what do you want me to know?”

Biological parents may be prepared to answer the following questions:

1. Please tell us a little about your child or children.
 - a. Does the child have any medical needs?
 - b. Is your child on any medication?
 - c. Any allergies?
 - d. What are some of your child’s favorite foods?
 - e. Does your child take naps?
 - f. Do they have any favorite TV shows, movies or toys?
 - g. Does your child sleep with anything?
 - h. What is the best way to calm your child down when he/she is very upset?
 - i. Is there anything else you would like us to know about your child?
2. Please tell us a little about yourself:
 - a. Do you have any pictures of yourself that we can give your child? If you do not, can we take a picture so that we can give it to your child?
3. In accordance with court ordered visitation agreements, provide the foster parent with a way to have contact with them (email, cell phone, home phone number, Google Voice etc.)