

# Self-Evaluation Quiz for Prospective Foster Parents

“As we do to our children, so will they do to society.” -Karl Menninger

Partners in foster care are many. However, a foster parent is the primary caregiver. A foster parent is responsible for the foster child 24 hours a day. This quiz is designed to help evaluate your skills that are necessary for this special field of childcare. Answer yes, no or maybe to the following questions:

1. Can you and your family adapt to the changes a foster child will make in your lives?
2. Is the rest of the family as committed as you are in serving the needs of the foster child?
3. Can you accept and deal with the many people and agencies a foster parent must work with?
4. Are you patient and understanding of the child's needs?
5. Can you deal with the emotional baggage that comes with a foster child, including anger, stress, confusion, masturbation, depression, fear, etc.?
6. Can you handle behavior that you and your family may not be used to?
7. Can you accept and work with the child's individuality and the different values and set of rules this child is accustomed to?
8. Can you handle your feelings and those of your family when the time comes to let go?
9. Are you prepared to take your place in the rejection line of this foster child? (A foster child may feel rejected by the biological parents and past foster families.)
10. Are you comfortable asking questions about the child's background and taking advantage of the support that is available to foster parents?

All people in the profession of childcare should answer “yes” to number 4. If you answer “no” to any of these questions, you might not be a candidate for becoming a foster parent. If you answered “yes” and a few “maybe” then you may want to consider becoming a foster parent.