

**From:** Scott Corcoran [scott@afamilyforeverychild.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2013 4:04 PM  
**To:** scott@afamilyforeverychild.org  
**Subject:** Suggested pre-placement questions  
**Attachments:** Pre and Post-Placement questions.pdf



Dear ,

Knowing the right questions to ask during a pre-placement meeting can be tough. When you get the call informing you that your family has been selected as a potential match, there are a lot of questions that may be going through your mind. The following is a guide from the Iowa Foster & Adoptive Parents Association that will help you navigate the pre-placement process, and give you the necessary information to determine if the child will be a good fit in your home. Keep in mind that some of the information may not be available to the caseworker, especially if it is a child that they recently added to their caseload.

A list of pre and post placement questions is attached to this email for your convenience.

THESE QUESTIONS APPLY TO ALL ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.

**Pre-Placement Questions:**

What is the child's ethnicity?

When would the child need to be placed in my home?

Why was the child placed in foster care?

Is this their final placement, yes/no?

If they're moving from another foster home, what is the reason?

Where are their biological parents living?

What contact will be allowed with the biological parents?

What contact will be allowed with biological family members?

What contact will be necessary with the current/past foster parents?

Does the child have siblings, yes/no?

Names of siblings/where they are living.

What is the visitation plan with siblings and parents?

What services are involved with this child and family?

What will be my role in these services?

Will I be expected to provide transportation, yes/no?

If so, where to and how often?

What is the child's legal status?

Is our home being considered as a possible adoptive resource for this child, yes/no?

How long do you anticipate this child to be with us (if not a permanent placement)?

Does the child have any medical concerns?

Does the child have any allergies?

Is the child on any medications, yes/no?

If so, what medication(s) and what was it prescribed for?

Does the child see a mental health professional, yes/no?

If so, who and how often?

What are the child's strengths, interests and activities?

Does the child have behavioral issues or other special needs?

Does the child do any of the following: swear, hit, bite, kick, run away, soil pants, wet bed,

set fires, sexually act out, use drugs, destroy property, fight, behave suicidally, instigate trouble, or steal?

Has the child been sexually abused by a parent, caregiver, or other person?  
If yes, please give further information.

Where does the child attend school? What grade are they in?

Are there any school issues?

Does the child have a religious preference?

What are your expectations of me as a foster or adoptive parent caring for this child?

Is there anything else I need to know in order to make an informed decision about whether I can parent this child?

Former caregivers may also be willing to share what they know about the family and offer insight about the child. Questions you might ask include:

What information about the child's and the birth family's social and medical history do you believe is significant?

What is missing from the paperwork? How can I get more information?

Currently, how is the child's health? Are there any diagnoses or allergies you know of that are not listed in his file?

Is the child still in touch with her birth family? If not, when was the last contact the child had with the birth family?

Does the child have siblings? Does the child have contact with the siblings? Will contact continue and to what degree?

Is the child showing behaviors related to abuse, separation, or other trauma? Have other children been victimized by this behavior? If so, how?

How many moves has the child experienced in foster care? What were the reasons for the moves? How is the child functioning as a result?

How does the child relate to peers in the neighborhood and school?

What methods of discipline does the child respond to best?

What comforts the child? What comforting objects do you think should follow the child into adoption?

What items, smells, foods, experiences, or events seem to trigger negative behavior in the child?

What, in your opinion, is at the root of these behaviors? What in the child's past might be causing him or her to behave in certain ways?

Would you be willing to tell the child that he or she has your permission to join our family?

Would you be willing to maintain some contact with the child during the transition to adoption? Provide respite care?

These questions are just a guide of what to ask, and can be altered given your situation and the information you are given about the child. Your adoption worker will also be there for you to help you through the process. For the complete guide and a version that you may print out, please see the attached document or visit the [Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parent Association](#) website.

Nora Sharp  
Matching Assistance Coordinator  
A Family for Every Child  
[nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org](mailto:nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org)



