

When A Child Arrives...

Questions To Ask When Contacted About A Placement

When you are contacted about taking a child, ask yourself some basic questions to help you decide if this child will fit into your home. The placement worker may not have the following information but may be able to get it after the placement. For example, a visitation schedule may not be decided until several weeks into the placement or the full extent of a child's medical needs may not be known at the time of placement. The Office of Children's Services is responsible for providing you with information about the child as is necessary for you to provide appropriate care for the child, to protect the safety of the child and to protect the safety and property of the members of your family and visitors to your home. This includes any medical or behavioral history that is known about the child. You have the option not to take a child if you feel the child would not be compatible with your family. You may not admit a child to your home if this would cause your home to exceed the age range or number of children allowed on your license. The answers to the following questions will help you decide if this child will fit into your home and if you have the skills to work with this child.

Questions To Ask:

- Age? Sex? Ethnicity? Religious affiliation?
- Where has the child been in care? Own home? Foster home? How many different places has the child lived? What kind of contact with prior placement is possible?
- Does the child have any ongoing medical problems? Is immediate medical attention needed? Who is the child's health provider? Is the child on medication? If so, what are they and where are the medications? Does the child have any allergies?
- Why is the child in placement? What does the child know about the reasons for placement? Anticipated behaviors and reactions to the move?
- IF CHILD IS PLACED THROUGH CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES: What kind of maltreatment has the child experienced? Physical or sexual abuse? Emotional abuse? Neglect?
- IF CHILD IS PLACED THROUGH THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE: What are the conditions of probation? Why is the child on probation? Any behaviors that you should be aware of? (such as sexual offending or physical aggressiveness.)
- Does the child have a history of bedwetting? Sleeping problems? Eating problems? Are there any behaviors that pose a risk to other children in the home? Who are the child's parents, relatives, close friends? Does the child have siblings?
- Are there any special conditions on visits? Anyone the child is not allowed contact with? What is the anticipated visitation schedule?
- Any scheduled appointments? (counseling, physical therapy, medical)
- What school does the child attend? Grade in School?
- Any clothes, toys or belongings coming with the child?