



Home Study Sample Questions

These are the types of questions the case worker may ask you during the home study process. Please review yourself and/or with your spouse before meeting with the case worker. There is no need to write out your answers.

Child Reference

- Describe your ideal child: Age range, gender, racial/cultural background, health, learning potential, sibling status, consideration of special needs.
- Describe the child you would consider that may be outside of the preferences listed above: Age range, gender, racial/cultural background, health and learning potential (give examples of physical, mental or emotional problems you feel capable of handling).
- Describe the maximum number, age and gender you would consider in a sibling group.
- If you have a strong preference for either gender, why?
- Describe your long-range goals for number of children and spacing.

Children in the Home

- Describe their personalities (both positives and negatives), their growth and development patterns, special needs, physical and mental health.
- Regarding relationships with family members, who is the child closest to in the family?
- If more than one child in the family, describe their relationship with each other.
- What is the attitude toward school?
- Describe the relationships with peers, interests and activities.
- What is the attitude toward adoption of a sibling?
- How are they involved in the adoption process?
- What would be the most desirable sibling as described by the child?

Adopting Father/Mother

- Physical description – appearances, personality traits
- Give place of birth, where childhood was spent (the place you consider home) and the number of children in your family.
- Describe your relationship with parents and siblings.
- State parents' occupation then and now; economic conditions when you were a child and youth.
- What was the relationship between parents and children?
- The general atmosphere in the home.
- Give examples of some family activities and interests.
- What were the values in your family? Rules for behavior?
- How were you disciplined and what was your reaction?

- How was love expressed in your home? Anger?
- How did your family make its members feel loved and wanted?
- Were you able to share through words or actions – feelings, joys, fears, problems, questions? With whom?
- How much room was there for independence and the development of individual interests?
- What kind of person did your parents want you to become?
- In what ways are you like or different from that now?
- Describe your most impressionable memories.
- As a parent, what will you do differently from your parents? What will you do the same?
- What were the relationships to extended family – aunts, uncles, grandparents? Were any of these relationships important to you and in what way?
- What were your primary interests and social/school activities while growing up?
- Did your parents influence your choices?
- What encouragement or support did they provide?
- State educational and military experience.
- What are your current personal interests and activities?
- State your immediate and long-range goals.
- Describe your personality: Best characteristics, worst, strongest values and beliefs.
- Describe any personal experiences with divorce, unwed parenthood, arrests and/or imprisonment.
- If either experienced previous marriage and divorce, state length of that marriage, when divorced, factors causing divorce, contact with and attitude toward the former spouse.

Marriage Relationships

- How did you meet? What attracted you to your spouse?
- What are the most important characteristics of your spouse to you now? How long was your courtship?
- What were the most difficult adjustments each of you encountered?
- Have you had any marital or sexual problems?
- What were your expectations of marriage? How is it different from or similar to those expectations?
- What were the most difficult adjustments?
- What would you like to change?
- Do you have defined roles?
- How do you resolve differences and disagreements? Has this changed over time? How do you show anger?
- Describe how, as a married couple, you dealt with one crisis or unexpected problem situation.
- How are decisions reached?
- Are they all joint, or do each of you have particular areas of expertise for which you are responsible? If so, what are they?
- What is the relationship to each other's families (frequency of contact, locations, attitude toward adoption (including international adoption), potential for support/tension)?
- Are some of these relationships particularly cool? Close?
- What social activities and interests do you share?
- How will parenthood impact your lifestyle?
- What are your mutual goals?

Lifestyle (Single Parent)

- Describe your living situation and lifestyle.
- How will this change with parenthood?
- Describe your social life.
- What is your attitude toward marriage?
- Do you presently have any significant relationships with a person you would consider marrying?
- Who are the adults of the same or opposite gender who will have regular contact with your child?
- Which of these relationships will be especially meaningful or problematic? Why?
- Are these people aware of your adoption plans?
- What is the process you use to make decisions?
- In times of crisis or unexpected problem situations, who would you turn to for advice and/or support?
- What particular problems would you expect to face as a single parent?

Home and Neighborhood/Community

- Give a physical description of your home, including age, overall square footage, all the rooms in your house, where the child will sleep, furnishings, housekeeping, etc.
- Describe your neighborhood and community, access to cultural and recreational facilities, and proximity to schools.

Health of Adoptive Parent(s)

- State general physical, mental and emotional health.
- Are there hereditary illnesses in either family?
- If handicaps, how are they dealt with?
- Is either of you chemically dependent (alcohol or drugs)?
- Describe any treatment you have received or are currently undergoing for physical, mental or emotional problems, including chemical dependency.
- Provide summary and professional prognosis of any current health factors.
- Have either of you tested positive for HIV (Aids virus)?
- Describe any experiences you have had with physical, emotional or sexual abuse.
- Reason for choosing not to have biological child or being unable to do so.
- What are your feelings about infertility if applicable?
- State medical reason, diagnosis and treatment.
- Is treatment for infertility still ongoing?
- What is the chance of pregnancy occurring?
- What will happen with your adoption plan if you become pregnant during the adoption process?

Religious Affiliation and/or Involvement in Community

- Describe religious backgrounds and current religion.
- If spouses are of different faiths, how is this handled?
- State current affiliations and involvement, if any, in church activities.
- What moral and spiritual values are important to you?
- What are your plans for your child's religious and/or moral training?
- Describe the community organizations and activities in which you participate, if any, and to what extent.
- Differences between your lifestyle and that of the child's.

Employment and Financial Information

- Give your current employer, job title, type of work, duties and responsibilities, and length of time in current position.
- Provide complete Financial Statement – list assets and liabilities, ability to absorb additional expenses.
- What is your attitude toward your job?
- What are your career goals?
- Do you plan to change jobs within a year?
- Could/would you transfer out of state within a year?
- What other sources of income do you have?
- Who handles finances in your home and how are financial decisions made in your home?
- Are you able to meet the financial responsibilities of parenthood?
- How will you meet adoption costs such as transportation, local and/or international fees?
- Will your health care plan cover an adopted child? Are pre-existing conditions and outpatient mental health services covered?
- What is your plan for meeting the costs of medical care, treatment and schooling of a child with special needs?

Attitude Toward Adoption

- What are your reasons for adopting a child?
- How long have you considered adoption?
- Why did you decide to adopt at this time?
- What are your attitudes toward illegitimacy, abuse/neglect, background factors, inheritables?
- Have adoption plans been discussed with family, friends, neighbors?
- What are their reactions? How will their attitudes influence your ability to parent?
- What responsibility does a child have toward his parents and family?
- If you have both biological and adopted children, how would you make them feel equally loved, wanted and needed?
- What are your plans for dealing with your child's adoptive status?
- How and when do you plan to tell your child his/her adoption story?
- How will you respond to your child's questions about the marital status, mental, emotional, economic or unknown conditions of his biological parents that made him available for adoption?

- What is your attitude toward open adoption or open placement?
- State plans for involvement in adoptive parents' groups and/or support groups.
- To what extent would you be willing to parent a child with special needs – i.e., life-threatening, minor, surgically correctable, etc.?
- If applicable, what made you consider parenting a child with special needs?
- Would you accept a child that has been abused or neglected?
- What experience do you have with people who are physically, mentally or emotionally challenged, particularly with people who have the same specific needs as the child you are interested in parenting?
- Have you discussed your plans with your physician and/or other professionals who will be providing services for your child?
- What is your plan for meeting the costs of medical care, treatment and schooling of a child with special needs?

Attitude Toward Adopting a Child of a Different Race/Culture

- What is your motivation for adopting an international child?
- What different issues do you feel you will deal with in adopting and raising an internationally-born child? Address health problems and cultural issues.
- What was your families' racial or cultural heritage?
- Was it particularly valued by your family and if so, how was this expressed?
- When you were growing up, what were your families' attitudes and beliefs about people whose culture, race, and/or religion were different from your own?
- Did you have family, friends, acquaintances of other races/cultures? How were they accepted?
- As an adult, do you share your families' values and beliefs?
- If they differ, in what way?
- If you adopt a child of a different race/culture, how do you anticipate he/she will be accepted by family, friends, neighbors?
- Have you personally ever had any experiences with discrimination? Describe the situation and your feelings.
- What did you learn from this experience?
- Do you currently have people other than acquaintances who are actively involved in your life who are of different racial/cultural backgrounds?
- What is your relationship with them?
- What racially-mixed functions do you attend?
- How have family members educated themselves about the child's specific cultural heritage?
- How are you educating yourselves about your child's cultural heritage? The values of their race or ethnic group?
- Are you familiar with the music, entertainment, and eating preferences of the child's race or ethnic groups?
- What do you know about the skin and hair care and dietary and health needs of the child?
- Give specific examples of how a child in your home will learn about his/her own race/culture, history and customs.
- What culturally sensitive dolls, toys, books, records, magazines, newspapers, artifacts do you /will you have in your home to teach your child about his/her ethnicity?
- How do you plan to help your child feel proud of who he/she is and where he came from?
- What do you have to teach your child about his/her ethnicity?

- What opportunities will there be to expand the “world view” – i.e., travel, military service, friends?
- Do you know individuals who share your child’s racial/cultural background and who can serve as positive on-going role models for your child?
- Can you teach your child about individuals who share his/her heritage who have made significant contributions to society?
- What does being a transracial family mean to the family members?
- How do you feel that your decision to parent interracially will benefit you?
- How do you feel it will benefit your child?
- How do you feel that your decision to parent interracially might negatively affect you and/or your child?
- Might your child one day resent you for making this decision?
- How will you teach coping skills to a child of a different race or mixed race background?
- What problems do you think might come up in school, in the neighborhood, etc., and how will you help your child handle them?
- How will you handle social mixing, dating?
- How might the issues for a child change as the child becomes older?
- How might the issues change for you as the child becomes older?
- How will you help your child develop the ability to cope with various forms of curiosity and prejudice?

Parenting Philosophy & Style

- Where and how did you get your ideas on how to raise children?
- What are your experiences with children and child care?
- What do you see as the mother’s role in parenting?
- What do you consider the father’s role?
- What are your expectations of a child?
- What kind of parent do you think you will be (or are) in relation to strictness, degree of independence given, behavioral expectations, education expectations, child’s voice in decision making, rules and forms of discipline, amount and kind of guidance a parent should provide?
- What rules will you have and what forms of discipline will you use?
- What kinds of behavior will you be unable or unwilling to accept: Defiance, aggression, withdrawal, sullenness, immaturity?
- How do you define those behaviors?
- How is your tolerance limited?
- What will a child expect from you and what will you expect from a child, initially and in a year?
- How long would you expect it to take for a child to form a bonding relationship with you?
- How will you handle a situation where there are problems with family members bonding?
- Does a child’s success or failure reflect on a parent? In what way?
- Could you continue to parent a child who remains unattached?
- How will a child learn to respect you?
- What responsibility does a child have to his adoptive parents and family? Do either of you plan any leave of absence from your jobs after your child has arrived?
- If you are both employed, what childcare plans have you made for your child during employment hours?
- Do you know people who would agree to be guardians for your child if necessary?
- Will they be able to meet your child’s special needs?

Motivaiton

- Describe your participation in preparing for the adoption process.
- Do you have any personal identification with special needs?
- Do you have any prior experience with adoption?

Readiness

- Are any factors in your life currently in a state of flux?
- How soon are you willing to adopt a child?
- Are the other children in the home ready for a new sibling