

# Quick Assessment

Is the timing right for you to become a foster/adoptive family?

	Agree	Disagree
1. I think having foster kids in the house to focus on would help our marriage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I can't wait to have a little baby in my arms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. All kids in foster care need is love.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Instead of getting a job, I'd like to do foster care to help pay some bills.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. After what I endured as a child, I think I have a lot to offer a child in foster care as a parent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I am planning an extended vacation some time in the next 3-4 months.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Birth parents of foster children don't deserve to have their kids back.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I think my spouse/significant other living in the home will get over their objection to being a foster family.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. I have recently been thinking about looking for a new job.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. We can't afford a private adoption, so we want to adopt a baby through foster care.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**See the next page to score your responses.**

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For every question you answered “no” to, give yourself a point. Total your points and refer to the point breakdown below. After you’ve evaluated your points, read the summaries below that correspond to the numbered questions.

If you had **more than seven points**, you’re on the right track. Find out more details in an information session and see if you still feel it’s a good fit for you.

If you had **5-7 points**, you may want to reconsider your commitment and reasons for becoming a foster/adoptive parent. Have a serious discussion with your friends and family and connect with our customer service or recruitment staff to help talk through your decision.

If you had **0-4 points**, becoming a foster/adoptive family is probably not for you. Read through the following points related to each question:

1. A couple of things to consider: Having any child in the home takes teamwork between couples. If you are having any marital issues, fostering or adopting a child is not something you should commit to until your own relationships are stable. Secondly, a change in marital status greatly delays the process of becoming licensed.
2. Babies are wonderful people! However, if your only desire is to adopt or foster babies, you will be disappointed when no babies are available for placement with you. While we certainly have babies and toddlers in foster care, many (if not most) of them also have siblings that need to be placed with them and/or special needs. The goal of foster care and adoption is to provide a safe and nurturing home for a child; not to find a child for families.
3. Love is important in everyone’s life. However, kids also need stability, structure and a family with patience and flexibility.
4. Payments from the state only cover an average of 70% of the costs of raising a child. These payments are for covering the costs of food and other basic needs of children.
5. While it is beneficial to have empathy for a child’s situation, make sure you have had sufficient healing from any trauma you may have experienced before taking on the responsibility of a child.
6. When you commit to PS-MAPP training, you are committing to attending 10 classes – one class a week for ten weeks. Major shifts in the timeline usually require you restart the process from the beginning. If there is potential that you will be unable to attend classes consistently, wait until your schedule allows for this commitment.



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7. The goal of foster care is to provide a short-term, safe environment for a child until he/she can safely return home, if possible and appropriate. If you can not see yourself allowing birth families to visit the child or have contact with that family, you will want to reconsider, or learn more about this component of foster care.
8. Many times a couple is divided on whether or not to become foster/adoptive families. Attend an information session, ask questions, get as much information as possible and make a decision *together*. If one person is not committed, the couple will not be successful.
9. Again, once you commit to PS-MAPP training, you are expected to attend consistently, Even moving just one county over changes everything. If you are considering a job change, currently interviewing, or unsure, take time out and continue the process when you have a clearer picture of your near future.
10. While adopting from foster care can be a great way to add to your family, it should not be your last attempt at adopting a baby. If you want to adopt from foster care, you should have some flexibility in the age and characteristics of the child you will adopt. Additionally, understand that often a child may come into your home as a baby and be adopted by a relative two years later. There are many factors in deciding what's in a child's best interest when it comes to adopting a child.