

Don't Forget to Ask!

This section has been adapted from the South Island Foster Parent Association handout sheet and the Foster Family Handbook 5th edition, page 79.

Foster Parents often wish they had asked more questions before accepting a child into their home.

The list below is designed to assist you in your discussion with the ministry.

1. Name and age of child.
2. Why is the child being placed?
3. What is the child's understanding of the reason for placement?
4. Has the child been in care before? If so, who were they placed with?
5. Is the child in care by agreement or is it a removal order?
6. Is it likely to be a short or long term placement?
7. Who are the parents and will they have access to the child? Are there siblings? Are the siblings in care?
8. Is contact with parent (phone and visits) to be monitored or supervised?
9. Any other significant people in the child's life?
10. Is there anyone the child is not allowed to see or be in contact with?
11. Does the child have any challenging behavioural problems? Has the child been sexually/physically abused?
12. Discuss with the social worker the child's sleeping arrangements to ensure needs for supervision, safety etc. are met.
13. What will help the child feel at home? Favourite food, comforting toy?
14. Are there any health issues? Allergies? Medication?
15. What is the child's legal status?
16. What is the child's cultural heritage?
17. Is religion important to the child?
18. Does the child attend school? Where? Are there any school problems?
19. Who do I call after hours?
20. What do you (social worker) expect of me (foster parent)?
21. If placement is accepted who will be bringing the child and when?
22. Will the person who is bringing the child have the following information?
23. What is the child's Medical Number?
24. Has the pink medical form for doctor (to be completed within 72 hours) been provided?
25. What is the name of child's doctor and dentist?
26. Has the Health care passport been provided?
27. What is the Safety Plan?
28. Are Referrals or other professionals involved?
29. Is there Information on school or daycare?
30. Does Aboriginal status or band membership apply?
31. Is there a copy of confidential information for Foster Parents Regarding Child -- Placement or copies of relevant reports?
32. Is the child's clothing adequate or will there be a clothing grant?
33. Are there directions of expectations for foster parents regarding visits, documentation and appointments?
34. Following the placement, when will the social worker call or visit?

Don't Forget to Ask Page 14 of the Children and Youth in Transition: A Toolkit for Effective Transitions
Navigating Some of the Bumps in the Road.