

The following questions may help you assess whether you have the characteristics and life circumstances common to most successful foster parents.

- Do you love children and truly want to help them?
- Are you flexible and able to adapt to changing situations?
- Are you emotionally secure and confident you can be a good parent?
- Can you accept children who may not immediately respond to you?
- Can you love children despite their behavioral problems?
- Can you set firm limits and standards of behavior? Can you discipline consistently and with patience when the children disobey?
- Can you view small improvements as victories and accept setbacks as normal?
- Can you work with social workers and therapists and birth families to help children overcome problems and develop life skills? Can you accept suggestions and feedback from this team?
- Can you accept and nurture children with the ultimate goal of returning the children to their birth or extended families? If the children cannot return to their birth or extended families, would you consider adoption?
- Do you have a healthy sense of humor?
- Does your entire family understand and support your commitment to foster parenting?
- Are your immediate family relationships stable?
- Is your family ready to share your home with foster children?
- Does your family have support from extended family, friends, neighbors, other community members?
- Is your household employment situation stable?
- Is your household financially sound?
- Is your lifestyle a good role model for foster children?
- Can you invest time in orientation and ongoing training? Information on foster, adoptive and kinship care is online at: <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/CFS/mncwts/>
- Can you devote significant time and energy to foster children?
- Is your home large enough to comfortably accommodate another person?
- Can you transport foster children to meetings and appointments?

It is normal to have questions and concerns about foster parenting. Please call 651-523-0963, or toll free 866-665-4378, for help making an informed decision that is right for you, your family and your foster children.