



TAPESTRY

Giving a Voice to Your Child: Conversations to Prepare for Foster Care or Adoption

Conversations should be no more than 2-3 questions at a time over meals, before dropping a child off at school, when you're putting them to bed, or while you're driving.

For Children in Foster Families

1. How do you feel about opening our home to foster?
2. Why do you think we are choosing to foster?
3. Do you understand why some children are in foster care?
4. If we were to foster a child older, younger, or the same age as you, what do you think that would be like (i.e. school, friends, time with mom and/or dad, vacations/holidays, etc.)?
5. Can you imagine what it would be like to be hungry, left alone, or hurt?
6. How do you think a child who is hungry, lonely, and/or hurt would treat other people? How do you think we might parent them differently than you?
7. How would you feel if you were hurt by someone you were trying to be a friend to?
8. What are some ways we have taught you to protect and respect yourself (i.e. private times and personal space)?
9. How would you feel if a child you came to love like a friend, a brother, or a sister were to go back home, and we weren't able to see him/her anymore?
10. How could you help us care for a child in our home who was in foster care? How could we show them our love for God, be sensitive to their story, and help them heal?
11. What kinds of questions do you think your friends might ask you about your sibling(s) in foster care?

For Children in Adoptive Families

1. Why do you think we are choosing to adopt?
2. Do you understand why some children need to be adopted?
3. If we were to adopt a child older, younger, or the same age as you, what do you think that would be like (i.e. school, friends, time with mom and/or dad, vacations/holidays, etc.)?
4. Can you imagine what it would be like to not have a mom or dad taking care of you?
5. How do you think a child who is adopted would feel joining a new family?
6. How could you help us welcome a child into our family as a new brother or sister?
7. What kinds of questions do you think your friends might ask you about our adoption?

For Children in Care Circle Families

1. What do you think about (foster/adoptive family's name) fostering or adopting?
2. Do you understand why some children are in foster care or need to be adopted?
3. How might a child who has been neglected, abused, or not received the same amount of attention you have act differently (i.e. maturity, school, sensory processing, social cues, etc.)?
4. What are some questions you might be curious to ask a child in foster care or who was adopted? How can we ask questions without letting our curiosity make us seem inconsiderate?
5. What would you say to (foster/adoptive family's child) if they are discouraged about the child they're fostering/have adopted? How could you encourage them without dismissing how they're feeling?
6. How could you be a friend or encourage them?

Resources

W.I.S.E. Up Powerbook by Marilyn Schoettle
Brothers & Sisters in Adoption by Arleta James

Kinship by Design by Ellen Herman
Empowered to Connect (online resource)