

Is Adoption For Me?

This self-assessment is for you alone and designed to assist you in examining your desires, needs, motivation, resources and readiness to adopt. If you have a partner you may want to complete this separately and then share and compare your answers for discussion.

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1. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, how badly do you want to adopt?
 2. When did you start thinking about adoption? Why?
 3. Why international adoption?
 4. Who is the leader in wanting this adoption? Will this cause conflict?
 5. Do you feel you are stable in your relationship as a couple without having children?
 yes no not sure
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6. What aged child would you prefer?
 younger than 2 2-4 5-9 10-16
 7. What other age groups would be acceptable to you (as many as apply)?
 younger than 2 2-4 5-9 10-16
 8. If your partner's choices are different, are you willing to defer to her/him if it would mean adopting your child sooner? yes no
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9. Ideally, how many children would you like? _____
 10. Would you prefer a girl boy either
 11. Would you consider twins? yes no
 12. Would you consider siblings? yes no

13. If you partner's choices are different from yours, are you willing to defer to her/him if it would mean adopting your child sooner? yes no

14. What racial heritage do you prefer your child to have?
 my own my partner's any/doesn't matter specific _____

15. What are your plans on how to keep your child's cultural heritage a part of his/her life?

16. If your partner's willingness or selection is different, are you willing to defer to her/him if it would mean adopting your child sooner?

17. Are you willing to adopt a child who has disabilities? yes no maybe

18. Which ones (choose as many as apply)?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| emotional | <input type="checkbox"/> mild <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> severe <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't matter |
| mental illness | <input type="checkbox"/> mild <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> severe <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't matter |
| learning disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> mild <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> severe <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't matter |
| hearing disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> mild <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> severe <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't matter |
| visually disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> mild <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> severe <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't matter |
| mobility disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> mild <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> severe <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't matter |
| drug/alcohol exposure | <input type="checkbox"/> mild <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> severe <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't matter |
| other | <input type="checkbox"/> mild <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> severe <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't matter |

19. If you partner's selection is different are you willing to defer to her/him if it would mean adopting your child sooner?

20. How much time can you/will you take off work during and after the adoption?

21. Will you or your partner change your workload outside the home after the adoption?
 yes no

22. If so, how much economic hardship would that cause?

23. How much money would you be willing to spend on an adoption?

24. What happens if the trip to the country to receive your child takes longer than planned?
25. Have you and your partner discussed, agreed to, put into place, such issues as:
Space
Childcare plan
Health care plan
Time
Money
Energy (emotionally and physically)
Conflict resolution of differences
Parenting styles/philosophies
Naming the child
Preparing friends and family
26. If the home study worker suggested that you would be approved for a child sooner if you changed your lifestyle in one or more of the following ways, would you be willing to comply? (select as many as apply)
 change residence
 move to other area/city/state
 remove "inappropriate" pets
 one partner move out
 change or quit job
 other
27. If your partner's selection is different are you willing to defer to her/him if it would mean adopting your child sooner?

28. When and how do you believe children should be told they are adopted?
 As early as possible / preschool
 When they ask where babies come from
 Mid- to late-childhood
 As adults
 Only if they ask
 Only when they find out
 Never
 Not sure
29. What do you believe you could contribute to a child?
30. What aspects of childrearing are so important to you that you would find it difficult to compromise (such as discipline, religion, schooling, stay-at-home parenting, etc.)?
31. Are you ready to love an adopted child as much as a biological child?
 n/a yes no I think so I don't know

32. Deep down do you feel like:
You are being forced to adopt in order to keep your partner happy.
Adoption, as a means to build a family, is "second best".
Adoption is your "last resort" if you want to be able to have children.
- (If you answered yes to any of these points, there is a very good chance that you have some significant unresolved issues that you might find beneficial to address and resolve prior to adopting.)
33. In rare, but profoundly painful instances an adoption process is interrupted and completion is made impossible due to unforeseen circumstances - such as sudden changes in the country's laws. How would you handle the difficult position of having the photo of a beloved child that was ultimately unable to join your family?
34. How long are you willing to wait to adopt?
35. Imagine you have completed the adoption and everyone has settled into being a family. What is your life like?

Key ingredients needed for a successful adoption experience:

***Motivation
Patience***

***Determination
Lots of Love***