



Questions To Ask an Agency

Fostering Hope offers a list of recommended child placing agencies. These agencies are recommended because of their commitment to trauma-informed strategies and support for families.

To start narrowing down the list – consider their proximity to you. This is not a hard and fast rule to eliminate agencies based on location. You can work with an agency who is not near you, but it helps to narrow down the list.

Do you know other families who have used one of these agencies? Call them up and ask them what they chose their agency. First-hand recommendations are always the best way to find an agency.

Here are questions to ask an agency. For most of the questions, the correct answer will be based on your needs and preferences. With any of these questions, the answer may be clarified by asking for an example.

- What are the ages and/or special needs of the children that the agency places the most?
To learn more about care levels in foster care, go to:
https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Foster_Care/Service_Levels.asp
- How will the agency support the foster family with visitation trips for the child, court trips, etc?
- How will the agency support the family if they need a break, additional training, school related support for the child, etc?
- Is the schedule for license training convenient for you?
- Can they support a family if they want to adopt only? Or is the agency in more need of foster only families?
- How does the agency help a foster family service providers if the child needs additional services (counseling, medical appointments, etc)?
- Is the agency able to support a foster family if they are in a position to mentor the biological family towards reunification? Does the agency have experience doing this?
- Do you like the person you are talking to at the agency? Are they responsive? Do you have a good connection to you?

Important considerations:

Faster training is not necessarily better. Trauma-informed parent training is crucial to successful fostering and adoption.

Did you find others to talk to who also used this agency? What was their experience?

Do they have a track record or reputation for supporting their families with training, resources, moral support?

Were they able to explain the steps to licensing and placement to you so that they were clear and easy to follow?

Do they have a website or system in place to support you with licensing and documentation once the child is placed?

Did they have a response to helping biological families that was supportive of the fostering families' involvement (as possible) or a system to care for bio families in other ways?

