

# “What makes a good adoptive family” (skills to adopt)

## What are we looking for when we assess you as a prospective adoptive parent?

### Qualities that are frequently found in successful adoptive parenting relationships

We will base our evaluation of your suitability to adopt on the evidence that you have these qualifications, experiences and abilities. You will be encouraged to collect information and show us how you relate to people, and particularly children.

#### Qualifications :

- Physically and mentally fit for the task
- No significant criminal offence or record
- No history of abuse of children, family members or partners
- positive references from reference, health authority and social services
- Home meets basic health and safety standards
- Overall positive personal references
- Stability in personal relationships and circumstances
- No recent change in personal circumstance
- No recent significant loss in personal relationships
- Application is supported by dependents
- Supportive family, friends and community network
- Supports and actively promotes the policy on not using physical punishment of children

#### Experience and knowledge:

- Hands on experience of looking after children
- Experience of loss or significant changes or upheaval in personal circumstances
- Has knowledge of normal child development.

#### Skills and Abilities:

- Able to form new relationships
- Able to maintain relationships
- Able to command the trust and respect of others
- Demonstrates personal warmth to children and adults
- Open to new learning
- Values own strengths and can recognise own limitations
- Able to reflect on own experience
- Demonstrates self discipline
- Is reliable and consistent in approach
- Able to talk about feelings and difficulties
- Able to listen and to stand back from problems
- Able to see child’s perspective and sensitivity to the feelings
- Able to put a plan into action

- Able to discuss issues around sexuality openly
- Able to accept and work with the child's history

#### **Basic Values**

- Shows an awareness of the issues of race and discrimination ☒
- Actively promotes equal opportunities
- Has a strong sense of personal identity
- Is tolerant of difference

**Now you have read the qualities required, please reflect on what you feel are your strengths. There may also be some areas that concern you.**

**Please refer back to your agency if you have any immediate worries.**

**At this point, it might be useful for you to write your thoughts and questions in your learning journal (this will help with your assessment)**