



Determining the Child for Your Family

These are questions to ask yourself and a spouse/friend as you determine what child might best fit your family.

- Should we foster only, foster-to-adopt, or go straight to adoption? Consider that straight adoption rarely allows you to adopt an infant.
- If we adopt, should we pursue a private adoption, an adoption through foster care, or an international adoption (and from which country!)?
- Do we see ourselves adopting an infant, a toddler, an older child?
- Should we pursue a child from another race or culture?
- Are we equipped to love and raise a child with special needs (and what kinds of special needs)?
- Can we handle more than one foster or adoptive child at once?
- How do we involve our biological or previously adopted children in the decision?

Other considerations:

- ALL foster and adoptive children have experienced trauma, regardless of how difficult their backgrounds have been, how long they have been away from their birth parent(s), or how early they were adopted, but you can help them heal from that trauma.
- There are more older children in need of homes than infants.
- It is difficult to care for more than one foster or adoptive child at a time.
- It will take more than just love to heal a child and to help him or her be successful in your family; it will take hard work, a willingness to study and learn, patience, prayer, unity between you and your spouse, support from others, and more
- If you are married, you should never move forward unless you and your spouse are on the same page
- If you have issues from your past that come up as part of the discernment process (such as past traumas of your own), you should work through them before you foster or adopt. Celebrate Recovery is a program offered by many churches in the area that supports people working through hurts, hang-ups, and habits.

