

# Groden Center Treatment Foster Care (GCTFC) Orientation Self-Assessment Quiz

Whether you are an older adult or a younger adult (at least 21 years old), single, or married, in a traditional or non-traditional relationship, a home owner or renter, foster care may be a good option for you. The quiz below will help you determine if treatment foster care is the best choice for you now. **Please call Andrea Neri at 401-274-6310 ext. 1259 for questions regarding this quiz or how to become a licensed treatment foster parent.**

- 1. Am I 21 years old or older and living in Rhode Island? YES/NO**  
*You must be 21 years old or older and have a valid Rhode Island driver's license.*
- 2. Am I in good health? YES/NO**  
*Parenting can be demanding. Physical and emotional stability are essential to caring for foster children. A Health History form needs to be completed by a Physician, Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner stating that you are physically competent to be a foster parent. A Mental Health History form is needed from Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Mental Health Councilor, if applicable, stating that you can meet the mental and emotional demands of being a foster parent.*
- 3. Do I have a good driving record? YES/NO**  
*GCTFC requires a driving record from the Division of Motor Vehicles.*
- 4. Is my home safe? YES/NO**  
*During the home study process, GCTFC will conduct an initial safety inspection of your home. You must have working smoke detectors and fire extinguishers to meet requirements of The Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) home/fire inspection (we set that up with you). A lead inspection is necessary if your home was built prior to 1978 and you plan to foster a child under the age of six. The DCYF fire inspectors do the lead inspections at no cost to you.*
- 5. Do I have adequate income? YES/NO**  
*You do not have to be wealthy to become a foster parent. However, you must have enough income to meet your own family's needs. You will receive financial support for the foster child's needs.*
- 6. Am I open to fostering a child 8 years and older? YES/NO**  
*Children requiring foster care are usually 8 years or older. Many are often part of a sibling group.*
- 7. Am I willing to work with children who have moderate behavioral challenges and/or intellectual disabilities? YES/NO**  
*Many foster children have experienced trauma and loss and may react by running away, stealing, lying, or by engaging in physical and verbal aggression. In addition, foster children may have intellectual disabilities or learning disorders.*
- 8. Am I open to working with birth families? YES/NO**  
*Most foster children visit their birth parents, siblings and relatives, determined by DCYF. Studies have shown that contact between the foster family and the child's birth family can be very beneficial. When the child sees that both families love them and are willing work together, it reduces anxiety. It is important that a foster parent support the child's relationship with her/his birth parents, if appropriate. Sometimes foster parents provide transportation to visits but will never be required to supervise visits.*
- 9. Can I attend the required trainings and am I willing to allow a GCTFC Clinician and DCYF social caseworker into my home to help train me on the child I am fostering? YES/NO**  
*Foster care applicants must complete mandatory 30 hours of trauma-based training (typically 10-week training, one night per week for 3 hours each night) to become licensed. Once licensed, foster parents must commit to on-going training once a month at a community venue and home visits once a child is placed.*
- 10. Is my schedule flexible enough and can I accommodate for the needs of a child? YES/NO**  
*Foster parents may need to take time out of work for a sick child or for school vacations, or identify someone who would care for the child in their absence. A parent must also consider if their work schedule allows to transport and supervise age and developmentally appropriate social activities for the child. A parent may also need to transport child to and from school (sometimes located in other districts) until busing can be arranged. Additionally, transportation and participation for the child's doctor appointments, therapy appointments, school meetings, etc... would be required.*
- 11. Have I or anyone in my household had any investigations of child abuse or neglect? YES/NO**  
*If you or someone in your household has had a DCYF investigation of child abuse or neglect, you may not be able to become a foster parent. All potential foster parents and anyone living in the home, 18 and older, are required to submit fingerprints, and undergo a record check through DCYF Child Protective Service (CPS). If you haven't lived in Rhode Island for the past five years, an Adam Walsh check is completed as well.*
- 12. Have I or any adult in my home been convicted of a crime? YES/NO**  
*If you or any adult living in your home has been convicted of certain criminal offenses, you cannot become a foster parent. Each adult member in your household 18 years and older will be required to submit fingerprints as well as undergo a DCYF record check.*
- 13. Am I ready to begin the licensing process now? YES/NO**  
*If you have answered "YES" to the above questions 1-10, and "NO" to questions 11 and 12, and your home life and housing are stable, YOU ARE READY TO JOIN THE GRODEN TEAM!! ("Stable" means that you are not planning to move or make any major life changes in the near future, and are not having financial, marital or emotional difficulties that would negatively impact the life of a foster child). The foster care licensing process takes approximately five to six months. We are here to guide you EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!!*

**Thank you for taking this quiz!**

By signing my name, I attest that the answers I have provided are true and accurate:

X \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions regarding this quiz, call Andrea at 401-274-6310 ext. 1259 or email [aneri@grodencenter.org](mailto:aneri@grodencenter.org)



(updated 10-16-19)