

TIMB Interview (Foster Parents)

Interviewer Instructions:

The TIMB is a semi-structured interview lasting approximately 5 to 15 minutes. It should be conducted in a conversational manner, although interviewers should make sure to ask every question as worded below (as closely as possible). An external microphone should be used for the TIMB and the interview should be conducted in a quiet room (if possible) in order to minimize the chance that responses will be inaudible when transcribed.

Children should NOT be present during the interview. When the TIMB is conducted in the lab (24- and 36-mon. post), children should be taken to the lounge area by a baby-sitter to play with toys and/or to have a snack. When conducted at home (12-mon. post), children should not be in the same room as the parent and interviewer.

Short responses (i.e., only a few words) should be probed for elaboration. Generally, short responses to any of the questions should be probed only once by the examiner. However, for clarification purposes, you can probe more. Specific prompts are outlined below. Most questions can be prompted with, "Could you tell me more about that?" Often, pausing and looking at the parent will encourage them to continue talking. Do not jump in too soon to ask the next question, because parents will often continue talking on their own if given the opportunity.

Responses that are difficult to understand (e.g., if caregiver speaks quietly, has a difficult accent, etc.) should be probed by the interviewer for clarification. For example, "So you think your relationship helps (child's name) behave better?"

Interview Questions:

- 1) "I would like to begin by asking you to describe (child's name). What is (his/her) personality like?"
 - a. *If brief, or if foster parent only describes one aspect of child, ask, "Can you tell me a bit more about (his/her) personality?"*
- 2) "Do you ever wish you could raise (child's name)?"
 - a. *If brief, or if foster parent does not describe her thoughts/feelings about the question, ask, "Can you tell me a bit more about that?" or "Tell me more about your thoughts on raising (him/her)."*
- 3) "How much would you miss (child's name) if (he/she) had to leave?"
 - a. *If brief, or if foster parent does not describe her thoughts/feelings about the question, ask, "Can you tell me a bit more about that?" or "Tell me more about what that would be like."*
 - b. *You may need to clarify that you're asking about the child leaving long-term, not just about brief separations. If the parent interprets the question as the child going to daycare, for example, you can say, "What I mean is, what would it be like if (child's name) had to leave permanently?"*

- 4) "How do you think your relationship with (child's name) is affecting (him/her) right now?"
- If brief, ask, "Can you tell me a bit more about that?"*
 - If foster parent needs clarification, can say, "What effect is your relationship having on (child's name) right now in (his/her) life?" or "In what ways do you think you're influencing (his/her) life?"*
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- 5) "How do you think your relationship with (child's name) will affect (him/her) in the long-term?"
- If brief, ask, "Can you tell me a bit more about that?"*
 - If foster parent needs clarification, can say, "What effect is your relationship with (him/her) now going to have on (child's name) in the future?" or "In what ways do you think you're influencing (him/her) as (he/she) gets older?"*
- 6) "What do you want for (child's name) right now?"
- If brief, ask, "Can you tell me a bit more about that?" or "What else do you want for (him/her) right now in (his/her) life?"*
- 7) "What do you want for (child's name) in the future?"
- If brief, ask, "Can you tell me a bit more about that?" or "What else do you want for (him/her) in the future?"*

"Now I have some more questions about what you see happening with (child's name) and your relationship in the future. Some of these questions may apply to you and (child's name) and others may not."

- 8) "How likely do you think it is that you'll raise (child's name) until (he/she) is an adult?"
- If brief, ask, "Can you tell me a bit more about that?"*

Can preface these questions with "I know this isn't likely, but..." or "You talked about this a little bit already, but..."

- 9) "If (child's name) were to go back to (his/her) birth family, would you want to still have contact with him (or her)?"
- If appropriate given initial response, ask, "How can you imagine having contact with (him/her)?"*
 - Or as appropriate, ask, "Tell me about why you would not want to have contact with (him/her)?"*
- 10) "If (child's name) were to go back to (his/her) birth family but then come back into foster care, would you want to have (him/her) placed back with you?"
- If reason is not discussed, ask "Why would you (or why would you not) consider having (him/her) placed back with you?"*
- 11) "When you think of (child's name) as a teenager, do you think you'll have contact with (him/her)?"
- If foster parent indicates yes, but does not elaborate, ask, "What kind of contact?" or "Tell me what that would look like."*
 - If foster parent indicates no, but does not elaborate, ask, "Can you tell me more about that?"*

12) "When you think of (child's name) as an adult, do you think you'll have contact with (him/her)?"

- a. *If foster parent indicates yes, but does not elaborate, ask, "What kind of contact?" or "Tell me what that would look like."*
- b. *If foster parent indicates no, but does not elaborate, ask, "Can you tell me more about that?"*

13) "When (child's name) has children of (his/her) own, do you think you'll have a relationship with those children?"

- a. *If foster parent indicates yes, ask, "Who do you think you'd be to those children?"*
 - i. *If foster parent needs clarification, can suggest, "Like a family friend, a grandparent, an aunt?"*
- b. *If brief, ask, "Tell me more about what that relationship would be like."*

14) "Is there anything about (child's name) or your relationship that we've not touched on that you'd like to tell me?"

15) "I'd like to end by asking a few basic questions about your experience as a foster parent."

- a. "How long have you been a foster parent?"
- b. "How many foster children have you cared for in all?"
- c. "How many foster children do you currently have?"
- d. "How many biological and/or adopted children are currently living in your home?"