

## Interviewing Tips

The writing contest in the November 2007 issue of *Fostering Perspectives* invites children/youth who are or who have been in foster care to interview their foster or adoptive parent about why they chose to be a foster or adoptive parent and what it's like to be one.

This is really an opportunity to write a **profile**, which is a story that tells about a specific person — what they're like, what they're doing with their lives, what their hopes and dreams are, and what their experiences have been. Here are some suggestions for how to do this.

1. Before the interview, come up with your questions. In this assignment the two main questions are:
  - Why did you choose to become a foster/adoptive parent?
  - What's it like to be a foster/adoptive parent?
2. Make sure you have paper and something to write with. Take notes. Write down the person's responses so you can use full quotes in your writing.
3. To make sure the answers you receive are complete, ask follow up "Why" questions to get more details and make sure you capture why the person feels the way he or she does. Don't settle for a one-word answer.
4. To add detail to your writing, it can be helpful to take note of anything about the person or the surroundings that might reveal something to the reader such as clothes, mannerisms, voice tone, etc.
5. Organize your thoughts carefully, then begin writing. Write with as many details as possible. Be imaginative in word choices and descriptions.
6. Have fun!