

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Deciding to adopt a child is a complex process. There are many points to consider. We have put together a list of things to think about when considering adopting a child to get you thinking.

If you have questions about any of the points listed, or have questions regarding other adoption related issues, contact the Adoption Council of Canada at **1-888-54-ADOPT** (1-888-542-3678).

Qualities You Should Look For In Yourself If You Are Considering Adopting A Child With Special Needs:

- ❑ You like children and enjoy the challenges of raising a family.
- ❑ If you are not already a parent, you have had other kinds of exposure to children that has given you insight into the daily realities of raising a family.
- ❑ You are a flexible person. You usually deal with frustration patiently and are open to changes in your expectations and lifestyle.
- ❑ You are prepared to be your child's advocate. You are not hesitant about searching for outside resources and using them.
- ❑ You value people according to their own potential. You are able to view people for what they can accomplish, not what they can't.
- ❑ You are realistic enough to accept that behaviours that took years to develop will not disappear overnight. Time, patience, commitment, hard work and luck all play a part. You are realistic enough to live with the fact that some may never completely disappear.
- ❑ You have a genuine desire to help a child develop at his/her own pace and in his/her own way for the child's sake, not yours.
- ❑ You have the ability to enjoy a child and respect his/her individuality and independence without expecting to be shown direct appreciation.
- ❑ You have a good sense of humour and are resilient enough to survive the inevitable trials and tribulations of the first months, while the child tests your love for him or her. Remember, often these children have had important people in their life let them down.
- ❑ You have the ability to sustain positive feelings that your child may have about his or her former relationships and permit free discussion about earlier experiences.