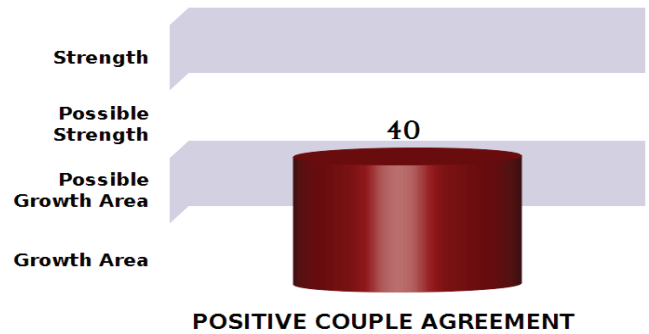
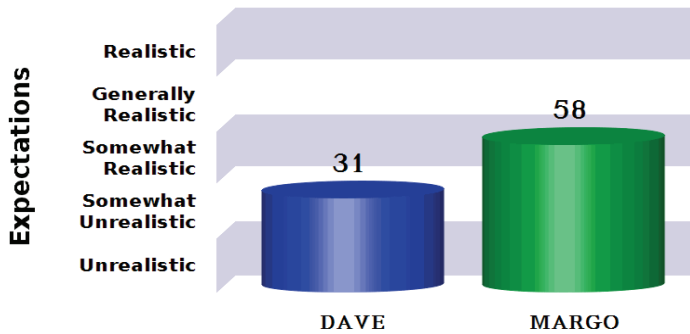


Foster Parenting Expectations

The **Foster Parenting Expectations** category measures how realistic or unrealistic each individual is about foster parenting and the natural challenges faced by couples and families going through the process of fostering a child.



Dave is somewhat unrealistic about the challenges and difficulties associated with fostering.

Margo is somewhat realistic about the challenges and difficulties associated with fostering, but may be unrealistic in some aspects.

Possible Growth Area: While the couple has some positive agreement, one or both has unrealistic expectations about foster parenting. Review non agreement items (growth items) to help them understand the difficulties of foster parenting. Highlight agreement items (strength items) to reinforce their strengths. Explain how understanding the challenges of foster parenting can lead to a more successful experience.

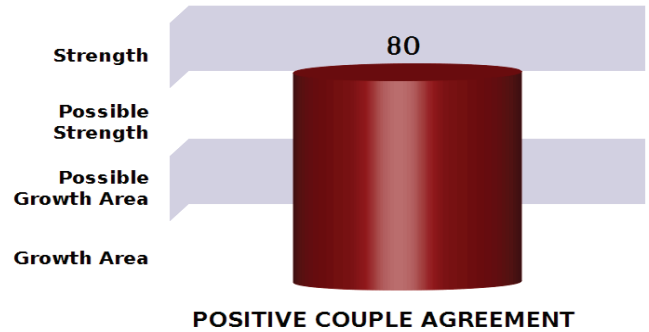
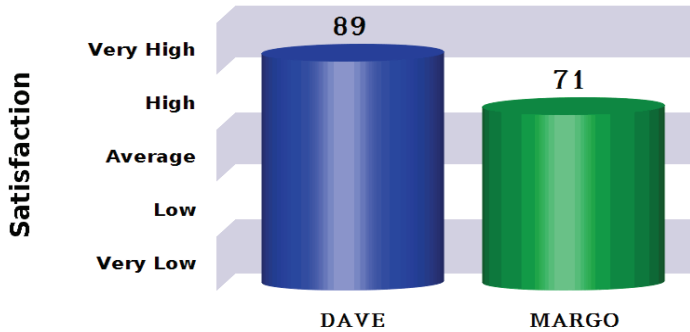
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

Dave	Margo	Item
Positive Couple Agreement (40%)		
2	2	- Fostering a child will bring us closer together as a couple.
2	2	- Fostering a child will not change much about the way our family operates.
4	4	+ I am aware that serving within the state foster care system can often be difficult and frustrating.
5	4	+ I am confident our home provides a better environment than the child's birth family.
Disagreement (40%)		
5	2	- I expect our family and friends to be fully supportive of our decision to foster a child.
4	2	- I expect to bond quickly and easily with our foster child.
4	2	- I will always agree with the case plan for the child placed in my home.
4	2	- The emotional satisfaction of fostering a child will far outweigh any challenges we may face.
Indecision (0%)		
Special Focus (20%)		
4	4	- Fostering a child will fill a large void in our lives.
4	4	- I'm certain our foster child will feel fortunate to be part of our family.

PREPARE/ENRICH Exercises: Discuss each item and the potential downside of holding these unrealistic expectations.

Foster Parenting Considerations

The **Foster Parenting Considerations** category looks at a range of foster parenting issues couples should discuss and understand. It measures their readiness and commitment to the process of fostering a child.



Dave feels very ready and committed to fostering a child.

Margo feels ready and committed to fostering a child.

Relationship Strength: The couple has positive agreement with most of the items in this category. Congratulate them on having discussed and agreed on many important issues surrounding foster care. For any non agreement items, encourage them to continue their positive communication.

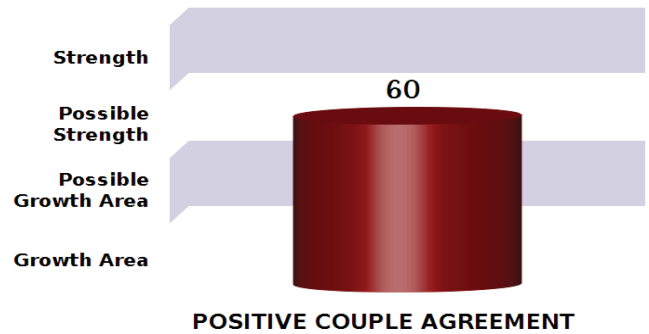
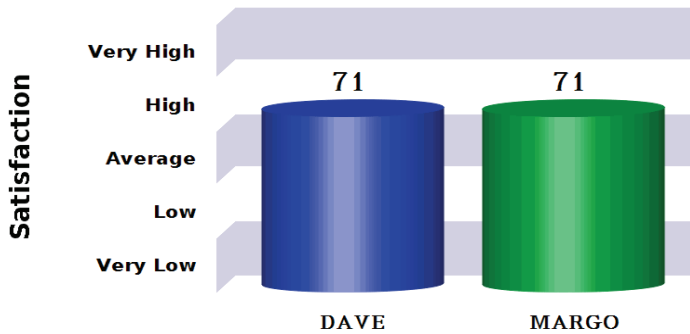
Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Undecided 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
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Dave	Margo	Item
Positive Couple Agreement (80%)		
5	5	+ I am concerned about how fostering will affect our family unit.
2	2	- I am concerned about our financial ability to foster.
4	4	+ I am prepared for the stress associated with working alongside all parties involved (agency, courts, etc.).
1	2	- I sometimes have doubts about our decision to foster.
5	4	+ We are both committed to fostering a child.
5	4	+ We are both flexible and willing to adjust our lives to make fostering work.
5	4	+ We both embrace the mission of providing a home for a child in need.
4	5	+ We have discussed and agreed on the age range and background of the child we are willing to foster.
Disagreement (10%)		
4	2	+ We have considered how contact with our child's birth family might affect our family.
Indecision (0%)		
Special Focus (10%)		
4	5	- The potential to adopt is the main reason we have chosen to foster.

PREPARE/ENRICH Exercises: *Identifying Most Critical Issues*

Foster Parenting

The **Foster Parenting** category measures agreement on issues related to fostering a child. This category explores a couple's plan to care for a child while also maintaining balance in their relationship.



Both individuals feel good about their communication and agreement on issues related to fostering and parenting a child together.

Possible Strength: The couple agreed on several of the items in this category. Highlight agreement items to show their strengths and how they want their family to function as they share parenting responsibilities. Discuss any non agreement items, it is important for couples to share opinions and beliefs about parenting.

Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Undecided 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
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Dave	Margo	Positive Couple Agreement (60%)
4	5	+ I am confident in my partner's ability to be a great parent to our foster child.
5	5	+ I am confident we can provide a safe and positive environment for the child we foster.
5	4	+ I am willing to go to great lengths to provide for whatever special needs our foster child may have.
4	4	+ I understand the challenges associated with the loss and attachment needs of foster children.
1	1	- My partner and I have different ideas about the type of religious instruction we will provide for our foster child.
4	4	+ We have discussed what our childcare options will be (stay-at-home parent, daycare, etc.)
Disagreement (20%)		
4	2	+ We have discussed how we will provide structure and discipline for the child we foster.
2	4	+ We have discussed the need to nurture our couple relationship, even after we begin fostering.
Indecision (0%)		
Special Focus (20%)		
2	2	+ We have discussed what each of our roles will be as we parent our foster child.
4	4	- We have no clear plan for how to manage the fatigue and stress associated with foster parenting.

PREPARE/ENRICH Exercises: *Children & Parenting: Discussion Questions*