Reflections on Parenting

There are many reasons why people become parents. Some people like to plan their lives around having children. Some people feel like a "biological clock" is ticking and there's a small window to have kids. For others there's no particular plan or reason to have kids. They just know they've always wanted to have kids, so they do. Regardless of why or how people have children we are all at some level hardwired to become parents.

The following questions provide you with an opportunity to reflect on becoming a parent. Some questions ask about your own childhood experiences. Other questions ask you to identify the challenges you believe you'll likely face upon becoming a mother or a father. Both types of questions are designed to help increase your overall awareness and gain an appreciation for your readiness to become a parent.

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1). How much time (if any) do you currently spend with children?

2). What ages of children do you feel most comfortable around? Explain.

3). The demands of parenting include many responsibilities and commitments. What are you least looking forward to about becoming a parent? What are you most looking forward to?

4). Children learn through imitation. They learn how to interact with others. They learn how to take care of themselves, etc. They also learn from their parents how to deal with stressful situations. How do you deal with stressful situations? In your answer, identify one such stressful situation and explain how you dealt with it (and explain why you did what you did).

5). In your opinion, what is the hardest thing about being a parent? Explain.

6). When it comes to disciplining a child are mothers different than fathers? Explain

7). In your opinion, what is the most important role a father plays in raising a girl? Also, what is the most important role a father plays in raising a boy?

8). In your opinion, what is the most important role a mother plays in raising a boy? Also, what is the most important role a father plays in raising a girl?

9). Identify one thing a parent should absolutely avoid doing with respect to disciplining their child?

10). What did you enjoy about being a child? What did you *not* enjoy? Explain.

11). Identify one quality a good mother exhibits. Also, identify one quality a good father exhibits. Why are these qualities important?