

# **110 Questions To Ask Your Stepkids**

**Conversation Starters**  
by Jacquelyn B. Fletcher

*Get to know your stepchildren better—no matter how long  
you've known them.*

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First Edition

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Gold House Enterprises, LLC

P.O. Box 766

Lakeville, MN 55044

[becomingastepmom@gmail.com](mailto:becomingastepmom@gmail.com)

[www.becomingastepmom.com](http://www.becomingastepmom.com)

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## Introduction

So you've done it. You've said yes to a partner who has kids from a previous union. You've dated, you've moved in together, you've married—or not. Maybe you have children, too, maybe you don't. The kids live with you full-time, part-time or occasionally visit. They are school-age kids, teenagers, or adults. Whatever your particular situation if you want to get to know your partner's kids better, this book is for you. There are 110 questions collected here and divided into categories to help you start conversations that might ease some of the trauma surrounding divorce, remarriage, new partners, and new lives. As I'm sure you know, the relationships between you and your partner's kids, or between your partner and your kids, can have a huge impact on the quality of your relationship.

As a stepmother of three and as a stepdaughter myself, I have a lifetime of experience dealing with the day-to-day realities of stepfamily life. As the author of ***A Career Girl's Guide to Becoming a Stepmom (HarperCollins 2007)*** and the blog [www.becomingastepmom.com](http://www.becomingastepmom.com), I have interviewed blended-family researchers, therapists, and stepmoms across the country and learned how people just like you are making their blended families succeed every day. As a journalist, I have studied the art of the interview, which is about how to connect with other people and draw them out. I decided to interview my stepchildren to learn about their likes and dislikes, their feelings, their beliefs. In other words, I asked them questions. In return, I shared with them stories about my life. It worked! It continues to work. As the kids grow up, they have new experiences we can talk about. New things happen in my life that I can share with them.

The following list of 110 questions can help you start conversations with your stepchildren (and spouse, too!) that can help you get to know each other better. A few rules to follow:

1. Be nice
2. Don't interrupt
3. Listen carefully
4. Validate your stepchild's feelings instead of judging.
5. Tell them up front that your conversation is confidential unless you feel like what they are telling you is harmful to themselves or others.

Good luck! I know that helping kids open up can be challenging. It can help if you start conversations in places where the children don't have to look you in the eye. Eye contact can be intimidating to kids. For instance, one of my stepdaughters and I have great talks when she's in the back seat of my car.

I hope you spend many moments talking and creating a deeper connection that can help create peace in your home. And I would love to hear from you. If you have stories you want to share with me or other stepmoms, please visit my

website at [www.becomingastepmom.com](http://www.becomingastepmom.com) or send me an email at [becomingastepmom@gmail.com](mailto:becomingastepmom@gmail.com).

Before you begin having purposeful conversations with your stepchildren, I want to tell you that forming a stepfamily that feels wonderful is possible. I meet stepmoms all the time who, with the help of their spouses, children, and stepchildren, have created a home that *feels like home*.

You can do it, too.

## Activities

1. What is your favorite game?
2. What sports do you like?
3. Are there any games you play with the neighborhood kids?
4. What's your favorite way to have fun?
5. Have you ever played Ghost in the Graveyard or Kick the Can?
6. Describe the cartoon or TV show you most like to watch.
7. What's your favorite way to exercise?
8. How much time each week do you spend watching television?
9. Do you have a website you visit every day?
10. Where do your friends live?
11. If you could only have one board game, which one would you choose?

12. When you go to the park, what do you like best? Monkey bars? Slides?  
Swings? Seesaws? Frisbee in the fields?

13. If you could do anything you wanted, how would you spend your dream  
summer?

## Dreams

14. Who are your heroes or heroines?
15. Do you believe you can achieve anything you set your mind to?
16. When you close your eyes and imagine yourself as an adult, what do you see?
17. What jobs do you think you'd like?
18. Are you a dog person or a cat person?
19. If you could have any pet in the world, what would it be?
20. What would you name your pet?
21. How do you want to help other people when you grow up?
22. What things in your life now are you thankful for?
23. What was the best decision you ever made?
24. Do you think you have a special purpose?

25. If you had all the money you ever needed, what would you do?

26. Do you think you're the kind of person who can take a tough situation and make something good come out of it?

27. What would happen on your best day ever?

## Family

28. Do you know how much your parents love you?
29. Do you wish your parents were still together?
30. Are there any good things that have happened because your parents are divorced?
31. What's the most challenging part of having two households?
32. What do you wish your parents would do?
33. If one of your friends were getting a new stepmom or stepdad, what advice would you give your friend?
34. If you could tell your stepmom or stepdad to make sure to do something, what would that be?
35. Do you think you'll get married someday?
36. Do you want children of your own?
37. How do you think your parents' divorce has changed you?

38. Do you think you're a stronger person because of the things you've experienced?

39. If you could go back in time to before your parents divorced, what would you say to them?

40. When your feelings are hurt, what do you do?

41. Have I ever hurt your feelings?

42. What do you like best about being a stepkid?

43. What do you like least?

## Friends

44. Who is your best friend?
45. What qualities do you look for in a friend?
46. What makes you a good friend?
47. Have you ever had your feelings hurt by someone you liked?
48. Are you a good listener?
49. Have any of your friends ever done anything that made you feel sad, nervous or mad? If so, what was it and what did you do about it?
50. What are the greatest things about your best friend?
51. What are the things you love most about your boyfriend or girlfriend?
52. Do you make friends easily?
53. How do you get to know someone new?
54. If your best friend stole something, would you tell?

55. How are you and your best friend different?

56. Have you ever said anything to a friend you wish you could take back?

## Fun

57. If you could be a superhero, who would you be and why?
58. What super power would you want?
59. Have you ever laughed so hard you snorted a beverage through your nose?
60. How old were you when you got your first zit?
61. Do you know anyone whom you would nominate for President of the United States?
62. Are you good at keeping secrets?
63. Is there something about you that you think I'd be surprised to know?
64. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?
65. What kind of car do you want to drive?
66. Have you ever tooted in public?

67. What's the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to you?
68. If you could change anything about yourself, what would it be and why?
69. Do you like your hair?
70. Would you ever parachute out of an airplane?
71. Do you want to climb Mount Everest?
72. If you could be famous for something, what would it be?
73. If you won an Oscar, a Nobel Prize or some other major award, what would you say in your acceptance speech?
74. Who would you choose to interview you on national television if you did something remarkable?
75. If you could have one of your wishes come true by tomorrow morning, which one would you pick?
76. Have you ever seen a ghost?

77. Do you believe in ghosts?

78. What's the strangest thing you've ever received while trick-or-treating?

## History

79. What's the funniest thing that's happened to you?

80. What have you done that you're the most proud of?

81. Where were you born?

82. What's the first job you ever had?

83. Can you swim?

84. Do you know your blood type?

85. Have you ever been in the hospital?

86. Are you allergic to anything?

87. Are you afraid of the dark?

88. What's the scariest campfire story you know?

89. Have you ever been to camp?

90. Do you have a favorite holiday?

## Personality

91. What's your all-time favorite meal?
92. Are there any foods you absolutely hate?
93. What's the most disgusting thing you've ever tasted?
94. What's your list of top five best movies?
95. Do you like to read?
96. Is there a book that changed your life?
97. When you're alone, do you turn up the music and dance in your room?
98. If you could audition for a reality TV show, would you?
99. What challenges have you overcome?
100. What's the best thing about being alive right now?
101. Is it hard for you to talk about your feelings?

102. How would you describe yourself to a stranger you really wanted to impress?

103. If you were being interviewed in front of millions of people, how would you want to be introduced?

104. Do you remember your dreams when you wake up?

105. Have you ever had a really scary nightmare?

106. If you get scared, what do you do to make yourself feel better?

107. How do you relax?

108. If you could change anything about your body, what would it be?

109. Do you believe in true love?

110. Are you happy?

## About the Author



Jacquelyn B. Fletcher is the author of *A Career Girl's Guide to Becoming a Stepmom: Expert Advice from Other Stepmoms on How to Juggle Your Job, Your Marriage and Your New Stepkids* (HarperCollins, 2007)

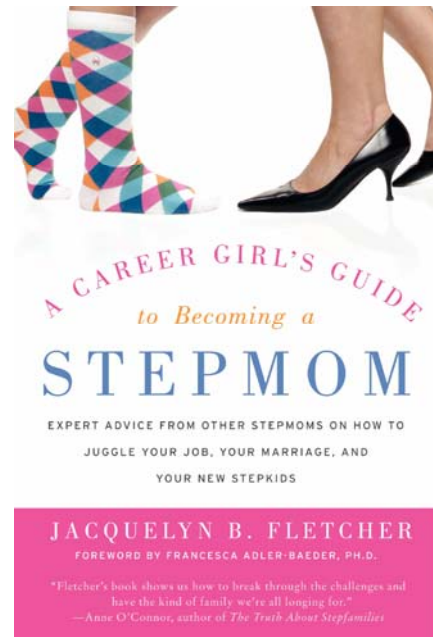
She is a stepdaughter, stepmother of three, and mom of one. Her blog [www.becomingastepmom.com](http://www.becomingastepmom.com) has subscribers from all over the world and includes tips, resources, interviews with stepfamily experts, and advice from veteran stepmoms.

## About the Book

"Fletcher's book shows us how to break through the challenges and have the kind of family we're all longing for."

—Anne O'Connor, author of *The Truth About Stepfamilies*

"I was literally sitting at home yesterday, having a pity party about my difficulties as a stepmom, when through my tears, I remembered getting *A Career Girl's Guide to Becoming a Stepmom* at the library. I decided to flip through it to find words of encouragement and read the entire thing in one day! This book seemed to have been written for me: no children of my own, a career woman, dating a wonderful man with a young daughter. I love how Fletcher validates how hard it is to co-parent someone else's child yet doesn't let you wallow in negativity. I was inspired and motivated and highly, HIGHLY recommend this book." —Clare M. Cox



"I read your book last week and felt like I was reading something that FINALLY understood that my biggest concern about having a stepchild isn't, "Oh don't worry - I'm sure he'll like you." I could scream if I hear that once more! I'm scared about my world shifting because I've fallen in love with a man who made choices years ago that effect me now... Your book came at a great time for me. Thank you for writing it." —Ashley

Find the book at your local bookstore or at any online book retailer. For more information, visit [www.becomingastepmom.com](http://www.becomingastepmom.com) or contact Jacquelyn Fletcher at [becomingastepmom@gmail.com](mailto:becomingastepmom@gmail.com).