



## **Stepfamilies: True or False**

(For Facilitators)

**1. There should be instant love between members of stepfamilies.**

*False: It takes time for relationships to develop. Don't push a stepchild to show love and affection right away. Building relationships can take months, or even years.*

**2. A stepparent should take an active role in disciplining their stepchildren from day one.**

*False: Until a relationship has developed between stepparents and stepchildren, children may not consider a stepparent as a 'parent' and may not accept discipline from the stepparent. Take on the parenting role slowly over time and allow the biological parent to handle discipline for the first few months or years.*

**3. It's important that I introduce my child to new partners, even before I know how serious the relationship is.**

*False: Don't introduce your child to a new partner until you feel that the relationship is serious.*

**4. Both biological parents and stepparents should spend one-on-one time with each child.**

*True: It's important for a parent to spend one-on-one time with each child to show them that they are loved and cared for, even when there may be changes in the family.*

**5. It's important that parents and stepparents are consistent with discipline.**

*True: It's important for all members of your parenting team to agree and be consistent with how they give rules and discipline to children.*

**6. Nurturing the couple relationship should come second to the parent-child relationship.**

*False: A strong couple relationship is the foundation for a successful stepfamily. Strengthening the couple relationship is as important as building parent-child relationships in stepfamilies.*

**7. The biological parent should not be involved in the development of the relationship between stepparent and stepchild.**

*False: The biological parent plays an important role in how the relationship between stepparent and stepchild develops. The more the biological parent supports the stepparent, the better the relationship between stepparent and stepchild will be. Parents should help stepparents to get to know each child and help them adjust to the role of a stepparent.*

For more information about parenting or relationships, please visit <http://ncfamilies.com/jitp/>