

To start off, could you please remind me who's in your family – that can include people you're biologically related to or not, however you define family.
How have things been for you **and your family** since the start of covid?

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR CURRENT PARENTS

Challenges to Building Ideal Family

Some people have a genetic link to their children, while others adopt or foster.

How did you become a parent? [*Each kid*]

When did you have children relative to your transition?

Tell me about your relationship with your kids (*do they live with you?*) To what extent do you talk about your gender with them, and how have those conversations gone?

If Quiet: What're some of your favorite things about being a parent/ Most challenging?

In a perfect world – what would parenting look like for you? For example, what people would you want in your kids' lives, what would your living situation be like).

-How would partner(s) fit into all of this? (Un-partnered: probe ideal gender)

How would you divide responsibilities and make parenting decisions?

-Would you work, and if so how would you balance this with childcare?

-What kind of job would you work? Where would you live?

How does this compare to your current situation, or how things were pre-covid?

-If single parent, tell me about your interest in partnering. What would that involve?

If you're not finding what you're looking for, what're some barriers?

-If co-parenting, tell me about your relationship with your partner(s). To what extent does your partner affirm your gender, and how does that affect your parenting?

Tell me about your current division of labor: who does what?

For example, things like cooking, cleaning, childcare, etc. Are you satisfied with this division? How did you decide to do things this way?

What kinds of parenting decisions do you make together? I.e., what was one of the last conversations you had about parenting? What was that like?

-For all parents, do you receive parenting support from your family of origin? If so, what kind?

From your friends? From your community or other sources? To what extent do these people affirm your gender & how does that affect parenting?

-Lastly, what's your current work situation like, and do you have any financial concerns?

Do you want to have any more children? Could you talk more about that?

-**If not in contact with children**, what's that been like for you? What kind of contact would you want? Can you imagine any ways of getting to that point?

Pathways to Parenthood

You've had your children [*insert pathway*].

What was this experience like for you, did you expect to become a parent in this way?

Were there any challenges you experienced, and if so how do they compare to what you think other people (you know) might go through?

For those who might want more children Do you expect to use a similar or different method? Could you talk more about that? Are there any challenges you anticipate? If being pregnant and giving birth were available to you, would you (have) be(en) interested? Does anything feel meaningful or special about pregnancy/birth?

Alternatively, if your partner was pregnant, what was that like for you?

If they bring up a biological connection, what feels special or important about that?

Could you also remind me, are you taking hormones now (or have you in the past)?

If on hormones: Most people go through some type of fertility counseling before starting hormones, can you talk about what your experience was like?

Were you thinking of having kids at this point? (*when you started hormones*)

Knowing that, how did you feel about starting hormones? *Ask about sperm banking*

If not on hormones, For some people, one concern about hormones is that it impacts your fertility. Is that a consideration? If you started hormones, would you bank sperm?

What have your experiences with doctors been like? Would you be interested in more consulting about your fertility/options? If so, any barriers to getting this support?

Have there been times in your life that you haven't wanted kids or were less certain?

What about when you were first coming into your trans identity, how did you think about parenting at that point?

Gender, Race, and Parenthood

Some trans women see themselves as parents (more generally), whereas others see themselves as mothers in particular. How do you feel about these terms, parent and mother? Which ones would you use for yourself, and why?

-If relevant, What's attractive about motherhood? What resonates with you, or makes you think, "Yes! This is me! This is what I want!" *alt, about fatherhood or parenthood.*

-What kinds of expectations does society put on mothers? What is a "good mother"?

-How do you feel about these expectations, and how do you think you'd deal with them?

To what extent do you talk to your kids about gender? Could you give an example?

Are there any stereotypes about trans women that have impacted you as a parent?

Remind me, how do you identify your race?

And for more context, what's your ethnic background or where your family comes from? For example, my family's from Russia and Poland.

What role does your race and ethnic background play in your life? (I.e., how are these communities important to you? Do you experience any discrimination or profiling?)

How do these identities shape your experiences as a parent?

What about other identities, such as class or sexuality – do these impact your experience as a parent? How so? *For sexuality, if you're attracted to multiple genders, do you think your experience would be different with a partner of another gender?*

What do you think you have in common with cisgender mothers (what differences)

What do you think you have in common with trans women from other races (differences)

Pointed Question: “Some Black moms feel their experience is different from others moms’ how do you feel about that? Do you have any concerns about raising Black kids?”

Institutions & General Climate – Now I'm going to ask a group of ?s about how you've been treated in different parts of your life, then we'll connect that back to parenting.

What have your experiences been in the workplace, for example, with bosses and coworkers? Have you ever experienced workplace discrimination or struggled to find work? Have these things impacted you as a parent?

How do you think your experiences compare to cis women in your field? *Or other trans people (i.e, white TW, TWOC)* Does your current job have the flexibility you'd need

If relevant: What have your interactions with childcare and schools been like? Do any particularly positive or negative experiences stand out? Are you out to other parents and people in the community?

We've talked about X support you receive from family and friends. What about the interactions you have with strangers or people you've just met. How do they treat you?

In your experience, do other people perceive you as trans?

How do you think people perceive you and your partner when you're together?

What's that like for you? **To the extent that people perceive you as a woman, do you feel like you experience sexism? Can you think of specific examples?**

Have *(and your partner, family)* had any safety concerns while in public spaces – and if so, has that impacted your experience as a parent?

How do you think your experiences compare to cis women who might deal with things like street harassment? *Or trans women of other races.*

It sounds like you've had some challenges. How do you navigate them?

Are there any ways you've been able to advocate for yourself or your communities?

Are there any other types of discrimination that you think are relevant to your experience as a parent (related to being trans, or your other identities)?

Wrap Up Questions

What were some of your biggest concerns about parenting before you actually became a parent?

Which of those have turned out to be true and untrue?

Do you know other trans women who are parents?

If so, what have you learned from them about being or becoming a parent?

If you had the chance to talk with other trans mothers, what would you want to know?

Is there any advice you'd give to women in your situation, who are interesting in parenting? Remember that I'll be sharing some of this publicly, so if you have any advice or words of support, this would be the time to share.

Anything else you wanted to share with me before we wrap up our interview?

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

Challenges to Building Ideal Family

You said in the pre-screening that you do want to be a parent some day, yes?

Can you talk more about that? What's important or exciting to you about having kids?

Briefly, what worries you about possibly having kids?

In a perfect world – what would parenting look like for you? For example, what people would you want in your kids' lives, what would your living situation be like).

To get into even more detail about this perfect scenario:

-How would partner(s) fit into all of this? (Un-partnered: probe ideal gender)

How would you divide responsibilities and make parenting decisions?

-Would you work, and if so how would you balance this with childcare?

-What kind of job would you work? Where would you live?

Which parts of this plan feel more realistic for you, and which more difficult?

-If single (and desiring a partner), do you feel like you're looking for a potential co-parent? Tell me about what dating (pre-covid) was like for you.

If you're not finding what you're looking for, what're some barriers?

-If partnered, tell me about your relationship(s). In what ways do you feel most supported

by them? Do you have any concerns about co-parenting with them? To what extent do they affirm your gender? (*and/or other identities*)

-For all, what kind of parenting support can you expect from your bio family?

From your friends? From your community or other sources? To what extent do these people affirm your gender & how might that affect parenting?

-Lastly, what's your current work situation like, and do you have any financial concerns?

Pathways To Parenthood

There are different pathways to parenthood. For example: *adoption & step parenthood, fostering, sperm contribution, and surrogacy*

Have you thought about which of these options (or others) might work for you? Which are you most interested in and why? Are there any challenges you anticipate?

How do you think these challenges compare to what other people deal with?

Adoption: Have you thought about the race of kids you might adopt?

If being pregnant and giving birth were available to you, would you be interested?

Does anything feel meaningful or special about pregnancy/birth?

Alternatively, if your partner were pregnant, what would that be like for you?

If they bring up a biological connection, what feels special or important about that?

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-How do you feel about these expectations? How do you navigate them?

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