



Host Family In-Depth Interview

Questions	Possible Answers
Tell us a bit about yourself, your life back home; your family. What do your parents do? What do your siblings do?	A good question to start of Skype interview, even if already asked per email or otherwise.
Take us through your day from morning until now. What did you do today? What did you have for breakfast? Please describe what you did today.	What type of food do they eat? Are they active?
What would the perfect host family for you be like? (number of kids, ages, perks)	Most non-native speakers seem to think of 'wages' when asked about the perk. Do they have clear ideas? Do they just talk about perks?
Have you lived away from home before? If so, how long? How do you handle being so far from family and friends? How do you stay in touch?	Screening for potential homesickness.
What's the longest you've been away from your parents? Have you ever traveled without your parents or family? Where did you go?	
What length placement are you looking for/how much longer do you intend to stay in Australia? Do you want to travel?	Do their expectations match with yours? Are they just coming to travel?
Do you expect anyone to come to visit you while are in Australia? If so, who? When?	Finding out about plans

What do you want to accomplish during your time here?	Do they have a plan? Is it just about traveling and meeting people? Do they mention kids? What to learn English?
Where do you want to spend your vacation time?	Have they done research about the area/country?
What do you want to study/do after your time as Au Pair?	Plans for afterward?
Do you have a particular area in Australia you would want to live in? If so, where and why?	Have they done research about the area/country? Do they only want to go to a 'prime location'?
When did you decide to be an au pair and why?	Kids, Family, Culture, Language, Experience, Grow
As Au Pair, what does being part of the family mean for you?	How involved do they want to be? Join into activities or 'taxi Au Pair' (out of the house/in their room as soon as shift finishes)?
What do you know about Australia? Do you want to travel around Australia and if so, where? Why Australia?	Are they prepared?
What kind of role do you want to have with your daughter? A playmate? A teacher? A parent? How would you go about these roles?	(personally, 'big sister' is a red flag for us because we don't want another child in the house but an adult)
Our daughter can be quite shy and reserved with people she doesn't know - what would you do to bond with her and make her like and accept you?	experience with kids; personality
What would you do if our daughter is upset and crying? What do you do if you ask her to do something repeatedly and she doesn't listen/do as she is told?	experience with kids; personality; attitude to discipline
What are your views on setting rules and boundaries for children?	Attitude to discipline
You are at the playground and our daughter falls on the swing. She is bleeding. What do you do?	Experience with kids; personality; stress response
How would you go about planning a day with our daughter and what kind	Do they have ideas?

of things would you do with her?	
Why should a host family pick you over anyone else? What can you teach our daughter that no other Au Pair?	Self-promotion; personality; special skills
When did you last cook something? What was the last meal you cooked? What are your favorite foods? Do you have any special diet or preferences?	Do they cook? What do they eat?
We live in a small village with a few forms of entertainment. How do you plan to spend your time when you're not working: (1) When you have a few hours spare, (2) When you have three days off?	Pro-active? Easily bored? Doing things by themselves? Will they just sit at home?
What values do you consider as being the most important in life?	Do these match with yours?
What are the three most important things your parents have taught you?	
We have strong ethical and environmental values but are not religious and don't teach our daughter about religion, God or Jesus and would expect you to do the same. How do you feel about this?	Do expectations match?
You made plans to meet your friends but suddenly they all cancel/no one has time - how do you feel and what do you do?	Pro-active? Doing things by themselves? Will they just sit at home?
How often do you drink?	Do they drink?
Tea or Coffee?	
Beer or wine?	
Are you messy or neat?	
Do you know any other Au Pairs? What is their experience/advice regarding aupairing?	Do they have realistic expectations of the job (and it is a job)?

Are you a morning or an evening person?	Can they get up early if needed?
How do you feel about talking German with our daughter?	
What do your parents/siblings/boyfriend think about you being an au pair?	Do they have a boyfriend? Is anyone not supporting them?
When you go clubbing do you prefer to go with a large group or with a few close friends?	Do they go clubbing? Big party person?
Do you like going out socializing at night? What kind of places do you like going, e.g., pub, club?	
How do you spend your usual day/weekend at home? Do you get bored easily/how do you keep yourself busy?	Can they keep themselves busy or do they need constant entertainment? What are their pastimes?
How much time do you currently spend with friends, family or by yourself?	Can they keep themselves busy or do they need constant entertainment?
Did you vote in the last elections?	Views/Values
What's your favorite food/drink?	What do they eat/drink? Expect to eat?
What's your favorite program/show on TV?	Do they watch TV (a lot)?
Are you religious/go to church regularly?	
It's raining and our daughter wants to go outside to play in the puddles. What do you do?	Dealbreaker question for us: Want to hear they will definitely take her out in an appropriate clothing
What chores/duties do you need to do at home? Which is your favorite? Least?	Do they have to help out at home?
Do you like to plan your day or just see what happens?	Experience with kids
What scares and excites you the most about being an au-pair in Australia?	Rigid planner or flexible?

Describe one thing that is going to make this a happy and successful time for you and what you think would make it a success for us.	Have they thought about potential problems?
How would you describe your friends/parents and how would they describe you?	What are their expectations? What do they want to get out of it? Do they consider others (the host family)? Are they worried things with host family might not work out (red flag-self fulfilling prophecy)
Have you ever gotten lost while driving? If so, what did you do? If not, what would you do? How often do you drive, what kind of car are you used to driving, and on what kind of roads?	Mature response?
How do you usually spend/celebrate Christmas at home	Does their personality match with yours?
It's my birthday and we are having some friends over to celebrate; usually, we ask people to bring a "plate" (with some food to share) and we are also preparing a few things. What would you do in a similar situation at home (and what do your parents expect of you)?	Involvement in family life; what's it like at their home?
How do you want to be involved/what would you like to happen here?	
Our daughter is upset, you've got something on the stove and the phone rings - how do you handle the situation?	Stress response
What are your expectations for being an Au Pair and staying with another family? How involved do you want to be in family life/activities	Do these match with yours?
Where do you/does your family shop for food and what type of produce do you usually buy (fresh, prepacked, cans/tins, frozen, etc.)?	Do these match with yours?
Have you ever been homesick? Have you felt homesick since you came to Australia? What did you do? What will you do?	Are they over homesickness/culture shock? Do they have a plan to deal with it?
What are the rules/routines of your house, home, letting someone know about staying out longer, bringing friends home (for the day/overnight),	Match with yours?

having meals together, etc.)?	
How do you feel about spending a whole day with and looking after a 4-year-old?	It can be boring
What are the (5) most important things you brought/will bring with you?	Personality (party dress or hiking boots? Passport or picture of the family? Tangible or intangible?)
Do you like cheese?	Likes/dislikes
How did you celebrate your last birthday?	Find out more about them and their personality/life?
What do you do when you are sad?	Big party or a quiet night at home?
Do you wait for friends to call you or do you often organize activities for the group?	Pro-active?
How do you handle conflict (with your parents)	And how will they handle conflict with you? Mature and reflective?
Do you like pets?	
Can you ride a bicycle?	
When was the last time you were sick?	Sick often?
How do you make friends?	Pro-active, outgoing? Do they have a plan?
Do you smoke? Do your parents/friends smoke?	
Have you had a job before? Tell us about your job and what you did. What were the challenges?	Been working before/know what work is/commitment?
You have a crying infant and a pre-schooler who demands your attention - how are you going to handle the situation?	
What is your safest driving habit?	