

<b>Children</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Stepparent</b>
Remarriage reawakens feelings of loss regarding parental divorce yet particularly young children have desires for a "whole family"	Remarriage is seen as a new beginning	Remarriage is a new beginning but anxiety about stepparent role
Children "cannot take a new parent", stepparent may be seen as the symbol of the loss	Can take a new spouse	Wants time with new partner
Questions raised internally for children: Who am I? Where do I belong? == fear Does my remarried parent still love me? of future	Parent wanting to spend time with new partner, which means redirecting time and energy/attention from patterns formed in single parent family (may give rise to feelings of guilt). May feel caught in the middle between child and new partner.	Having to share spouse with children who are also a reminder of spouse's former marriage (May arouse feelings of jealousy and competition).
Can I like this new stepparent or will I be betraying my parent? Will receiving/accepting ==loyalty Affection mean that I conflict Am being disloyal?	Natural parent may be fostering , wishing stepparent could replace original parent	May have "savior fantasies" --wanting to meet all of children's needs -- also wanting to prove self to spouse
Children have certain amount of distrust based on previous experience in his family, thus may feel vulnerable/wary of allowing this new stepparent into their lives immediately	Sending indirect messages to new spouse ("if you love me, you'll love my children.")Yet at the same time, too protective of children & not really letting new stepparent in particularly when it comes to disciplining	Yet didn't choose to be a parent . Is doing many things for children yet children still making it clear they love natural parent more. Can begin to feel unappreciated: hurt, frustration,, resentment begin to rise
Feeling displaced	Fear of failing Feeling like the betrayer (both when living with children and when not living with children, esp. if living with step children)	Feeling like or seen as the betrayer

Additional concerns for children if there are also stepsiblings since they not only have to share parent with a new adult but also with other kids.

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