

PARENT INTERVIEW GUIDELINES

1. Ask the parent to make an appointment with you for an interview (preferably in person). The parents need to know that the interview will help you better understand the child.
2. Always respect the privacy of the parent. Accept the fact that some parents might not want to answer some questions. Simply indicate “No Comment” in your notes if a parent chooses not to respond.
3. Questions about the Child:
 - Prenatal health history
 - Birth date (include type of delivery and if there were any complications)
 - Birth Order (include the number and ages of siblings)
 - Description of the child’s personality
 - Languages the child speaks or understands
 - Special abilities/talents
 - Activities the child likes and dislikes
 - Any fears
 - How does the child demonstrate his/her emotions?
 - Eating and sleeping habits/routines
 - Adjustment to child care, preschool, or school
 - TV/Video Tape watching; how often, what programs and with whom
 - Typical day’s routine (from wake-up time to next day’s wake-up time)
 - Typical weekend routine (from wake-up time to next day’s wake-up time)
 - Weekly schedule (Note any activities, classes, or custodial changes)
 - Primary residence (or is it shared if parents do not live in the same home)
 - Concerns of parent regarding the child
 - Other areas of questions about the child
4. Questions about the Family:
 - Ethnic background of both parents
 - Occupations of both parents
 - Are both parents in the home? If not, which one is the primary guardian or is it shared?
 - Are other adults residing in the home? If so, what is the relationship to the child?
 - Languages spoken in the home
 - Form of discipline used with the child and by whom
 - Any change of residence in the last year? If so, how did the child respond to the move?
 - Any other recent changes in the family
 - Siblings
 - Other pertinent question regarding the family
5. Questions about Child Care/Preschool and School Experiences:
 - A. Child Care/Preschool:
 - Age when started and ended
 - Full-time or Part-time
 - Type of program
 - philosophy of program
 - group size
 - parents’ goal
 - B. Elementary School:
 - Age when started
 - current grade
 - type and philosophy of school
 - in after school care, too?
 - child’s feelings about parents’ goals

