

Caregiver Interview Questions

I believe an interview should be like a conversation, not like taking a poll. Every one of these questions has one or several potential follow-ups, depending on what the caregiver(s) say(s). The overarching goal is to make the caregiver(s) feel comfortable and trusting, so no judgment is allowed.

1. Let me start by telling you a little bit about myself . . . (background, experience, interests, this is meant to be an icebreaker – don't climb up on the credentials pedestal!).
2. Do you feel as if you understand the evaluation process we are using to help your child? What can I explain/review with you before we start talking about your child?
3. Please tell me a little bit about *your* experiences in school?
4. What are you most concerned about with your child?
5. If there are siblings, describe them – how are they all alike or unlike?
6. Please tell me about other family members – grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins – are they close?
7. Please tell me about his/her early years, before school. Did he/she seem to learn things at the same time as your other children/children that you know?
8. What were the first days like in school for your child (Nursery? Kindergarten? First grade?)
9. Was there ever a time when you were told or felt that your child had exceptional abilities? What were they, and at what age?
10. Was there ever a time when you were told or suspected that your child might be falling behind his or her peers in school? In what ways, and at what age?
11. What is your goal for your child? Tell me what you can about your hopes and aspirations.
12. How do you think your child feels about school? Do you know why he or she feels this way?
13. What does your child like to do most at home? (Prompts: Hobbies? Play sports? Read a book? Listen to music? Watch TV? Play video games?)
14. How would you describe your child's general mood or nature? Is he or she happy, sad, quiet, or boisterous? Lots of friends or just one or two special friends?
15. What do you think are your child's strengths in school? Do you know why?
16. What does he or she find most challenging? Do you know why?
17. What would you like to tell me about your child that I didn't think to ask?