

Teacher Interview Questions

I struggled a bit with these questions because I have mixed feelings about how to deal with regular education teachers in a situation such as this. In my experience, many of these teachers are resistant to any sort of evaluation or perceived critique by anyone else, but especially so when it comes to special educators. I decided finally that what really matters most is whether the teacher you are interviewing knows you or not.

1. Do you have any questions about this process before we start talking about (the student)?
2. Please give some background on your experience with this child. How long has he or she been in your classroom?
3. What are the child's strengths and weaknesses in your classroom?
4. What are you most concerned about when you think about this child?
5. How would you compare this child's ability/intelligence/motivation/performance as compared to others in the class?
6. Are there any unusual patterns to the child's performance in the classroom? Are some days better than others?
7. How would you describe this 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?
8. What is this child's predominant learning style – visual, tactile, auditory? Are any of these channels especially strong or weak?
9. What types of assessments does the child do well on? Struggle with? Do you know why?
10. How is the child in terms of task completion? Initiation? Follow-through?
11. Does the child do homework? Always, sometimes, never? Does he or she try to do the best job possible or just enough to get by?
12. What are his or her strongest skill areas? Weakest?
13. What are you doing already in terms of remediation and differentiation? Any advice on what works or does not work?
14. Does the child pay attention in class? Is he or she disruptive?
15. How do you think this child feels about school? Do you know why he or she feels this way?
16. Have you taught any of this child's siblings in the past? If so, how do they compare?

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17. How would characterize the child's social skills? Is he or she friendly or withdrawn? Talkative or quiet? Even tempered or sullen?
18. Have you ever seen this child lose his or her temper? If yes, what triggered it? Is it a frequent occurrence or an isolated event?
19. Does the child ever talk about aspirations for the future?
20. What would you like to tell me about this child that I didn't think to ask?