

Getting to Know Each Child

Discussion Questions

*Use this form in **Step 1** to ask open-ended questions during casual conversations with families or on home visits. Select the questions and discussions you find most useful; it is not necessary to ask every question when getting to know a family.*

Home Routines

- Please tell me about a typical day for your child when he or she is not in preschool (on a weekend or on a day off from school).
- What are meal times like in your home?
- What does your child's bedtime routine look like?
- What do I need to know about your routines at home that will better help me get to know your child?

Family Culture

- I'd love to know more about your family's culture, traditions, beliefs, and values. What are ways I can support and celebrate your cultural beliefs in the preschool setting?
- Is there anything I need to know about your family culture that will better help me get to know your child?
- Would you be interested in and able to share some of your traditions and celebrations with our classroom throughout the year?

Temperament

- How does your child approach new things or people?
- How does she react and adapt when there is a change?
- How active is your child?
- What is your child's typical mood?

- How strongly does your child express his feelings when excited or when angry?
- How are your child's body rhythms, such as eating, sleeping, or going to the bathroom?
- How long will your child keep at an activity without giving up?
- How do outside stimuli (for example, phone ringing, television on) cause your child to lose focus?
- How sensitive is your child to stimulation such as touch, sounds, taste, room temperature, and so on?

Health

- How is your child's overall physical health?
- What health history should I know about (e.g., premature birth, developmental delay, surgery, major illness, psychological trauma, allergies)?
- What can I help with regarding your child's health and wellness?

Language

- What is your family's home language?
- Please tell me about your child's language skills. How do you, and others, understand him when he speaks?
- What does he really enjoy talking about?
- Please share any strengths your child has in this area of development.
- Please share any concerns you have with this area of development.

Gross and Fine Motor

- Please tell me about your child's physical skills. Is she able to do most things she wants to do physically such as climbing, running, riding a tricycle, dancing, balancing, going up and down stairs, and so forth?

- What does she really enjoy doing physically?
- Please share any strengths your child has in this area of development.
- Please share any concerns you have with this area of development.

Cognition and Approaches to Learning

- Please tell me about how your child learns.
- How easily does he grasp new ideas and concepts?
- How is her memory?
- How does he feel about learning?
- When a task is difficult, how does she respond?
- What are his favorite things to learn about?
- Please share any strengths your child has in this area of development.
- Please share any concerns you have with this area of development.

Social and Emotional Development

- Please tell me about your child's behaviors and social and emotional skills.
- How does she play and get along with others?
- When someone is unkind to him, how does he respond?
- What emotions do you see her express most often?
- Please share any strengths your child has in this area of development.
- Please share any concerns you have with this area of development.