

Family Survey and Conversation Questions

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Family Priorities

- What do you enjoy most about your child?
- What do you want us to know about your child?
- Who your child's important family members and friends?
- Are there any recent changes in your family routine that may impact your child's needs?
- Do you have questions or concerns?

Child's Favorite Activities

- What toys, finger-plays, songs, games, and activities does the child enjoy?
- What are the child's favorite interests and activities?
- What active play does the child enjoy?
- What dress up, make-believe play does the child enjoy?
- What are your child's favorite books and how do you read them to your child?
- Are you willing to record and teach the songs you sing to your child at home?

Diapering and Toilet Training

- When do you expect children to begin toilet training?
- Where do you usually change your child's diaper?
- What techniques or routines are used during diapering/toileting procedures?
- Are there specific words, cues, or songs your child associates with diapering and toileting time?
- What special words or words in the home language used for diaper ointments, the child's bottom, and other diapering processes?
- How do you ask to change a diaper or remind children to visit the bathroom?
- What words of encouragement are used?
- Is your child used to having his/her diaper changed by someone other than you?

Meal and Feeding Routines

- What meal routines are followed at home?
- Do you bottle feed or nurse the child at home?
- How do you hold the baby and the bottle during feedings?
- Does the child feed him/herself at home or does an adult feed the child?
- How do you hold baby and bottle during feedings?
- Does the toddler feed him/herself at home or does a caregiver feed the child?
- Are there specific dietary restrictions or allergies that require specific attention or supervision?
- What family members are present and involved in meal times and family activities?

Cultural Coherence

- What are some beliefs, cultural practices, and childrearing rituals that are valued?
- What character traits, qualities, and goals do you have for your child?
- What are some character traits you want us to support in your child?
- What special trait, skills, strengths, and qualities do you see in your child?
- What would you like us to do to support or encourage your child?
- What emerging skills would you like us to notice, encourage, and support?

Sleeping Routines

- How does your child sleep at home? Does he/she sleep in a bassinet, crib, or with the parent(s)?
- Is the child rocked at home to fall asleep? If so, is he/she laid in the crib or on the bed while still awake, drowsy, or when fully asleep?
- What sleeping routines do you use with toddlers? What comfort items, songs, or rituals?
- Is the child nursed or given a bottle at home before falling asleep?
- When you lay your child down, do you pat or rub his/her back?
- Do you let your child fall asleep after fussing for a few minutes or do you comfort him/her?

Emotional and Physical Support

- How is your child comforted or reassured when he/she is upset?
- Are there any stresses or unpredictable changes the child has experienced?
- What health or developmental concerns can be supported?
- Do you tend to wait and let your child self-soothe, or do you step in to minimize frustration?
- Do you support your child's independence or reliance on you for self-care?
- Are there unique words or techniques used to comfort or soothe your child?
- How do you guide your child's behaviors? What do you do to help him/her be successful learning new skills?

Personal and Group Skills

- Describe your child's previous group experiences. Does he/she mostly play alone or show interest in others? What activities does he/she enjoy?
- How does your child manage being away from you?
- Are there specific activities that your child does not like/prefer, for example touching wet or slippery things, having his/her nose wiped, getting into an outer coat or snowsuit, getting into a high chair? How do you help him/her with this at home? How would you like us to help him/her in the classroom?

Contact Marie Masterson and find additional resources at www.mariemasterson.com