

Questions to facilitate discussion at school meeting

This document provides some prompts to help you think about what you might talk about at your school meeting. Not all of them will be relevant to your child, but they will help get you started with the types of things to consider when talking to a school and deciding whether they are a good fit with your child. Remember to frame your discussion within a strength-based model.

Communication

Talk about how your child communicates and what others can do to support their participation in the classroom and in the playground.

Prompts

What forms of communication does your child use? Phrases/words/signs/visuals?

How does your child show s/he needs help?

How does your child demonstrate choice and preference?

How does your child ask/answer questions?

How does your child engage in conversation with peers/adults?

How does your child recall and share past experiences with peers/adults?

What can be done to support your child to communicate effectively?

What communication support techniques have worked well?

Are there any communication support techniques that you would like to try?

Relating to others

Talk about how your child interacts with peers and teachers, in the classroom and in the playground.

Prompts

How does your child respond to familiar students/adults?

How does your child respond to unknown students/adults?

How does your child respond to working in small/large group?

How does your child feel about and respond to sharing resources with peers?

How does your child feel about and respond to taking turns?

How does your child show affection/empathy/sympathy towards others?

What are your child's interactions like with other children in the playground? Do they differ from within the classroom?

What can be done to support your child to have meaningful interactions with peers?
E.g facilitate ball-play, socially valued roles

Learning

Talk about how your child learns and what s/he needs to have their best learning experience.
The goal is to set your child up to succeed!

Prompts

What are your child's learning strengths? Reading, writing, maths, art, dance, music, languages, technology

What are your child's learning challenges?

How best can instructions be delivered so your child can follow them?

How does your child learn best? Independently/group work? Visual prompts?

What motivates your child?

What has your child found challenging at their early childhood setting?

Managing Self

Talk about how your child expresses their emotions, personal safety, and self-care. Your child should be supported to learn the skills they need to be independent as possible.

Prompts

Does your child require support with going to and using the toilet?

Does your child require support with eating/drinking?

Does your child require support with putting on/taking off clothing?

During unstructured learning times, e.g. free time, sitting for long periods on the mat, how can your child be supported to remain engaged? E.g sensory box

How does your child cope with change?

What can be done to help your child feel comfortable with change?

How does your child express emotions like anger or frustration?

What can be done to support your child if they are feeling upset/uncomfortable?

What helps your child stay engaged and on task? E.g breaks, bursts of physical activity