



.....
All In This Together

Lesson Adaptations to Reach Every Child

Parent Interviewing is a process that isn't as much a means of *gathering information* as it is of *gaining insight* into the student. The goal is not to learn about the student so that you may teach well. The goal is to get to know the student, so that you may teach well as an expression of loving the student well.

Get to Know Your Students

Parent Interviewing

Probably the best way to get to know a student is to have a warm, inviting dialogue with the parents. Conducted well, interviewing the parents is a *process* that affirms the student and the family and communicates your commitment to them.

Despite the term, "interviewing" a parent is nothing like a job interview, in purpose or in practice. The purpose is to get to know the student and the family so that you can better understand the impact of disability on them spiritually and practically. So that you may better know how to make the gospel accessible to them...in word and in deed. That's the bigger picture behind learning how to better teach and include them in your Sunday Christian Ed program.

It is easy to treat the interviewing process as a means of *gathering information*, but it should be treated as a means of *gaining insight*. The end goal isn't to learn about the student for the purpose of teaching. The goal is getting to know a student so that you may teach well as an expression of loving the student and the family well. That's why the focus isn't on an interview *session* but on an interview *process* that facilitates honest communication.

With this perspective, take some time to look at the accompanying Parent Interview and Parent Questionnaire forms. These forms are designed for getting to know students and families who are new, but you may find some topics that would help you know some current students better.

You'll see that the questions on both forms are designed to 1) help parents tell you what they believe is important for you to know, and 2) help you listen perceptively and ask relevant follow-up questions to flesh out all of the information you need to know. The Parent Interview form may be used alone in a meeting with parents, with appropriate follow-up questions. Or it may be used in a meeting with the parents after they complete the Parent Questionnaire. The open-ended questions on the Interview form are still important in helping establishing a foundation of genuine care and concern. We recommend against using the Questionnaire alone, without the personal dialogue of an interview.

Finally, the information from the parents that is applicable to the Sunday School setting may be summarized and given to the classroom teacher or buddies with recommendations for how to best relate to the student. However, any confidential information should not be shared beyond those who need to know. The parents should be assured that this will be the case, and it is imperative that you strictly adhere to this.

PARENT INTERVIEW FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Parent Name(s) _____

Interviewed by _____

Student's Name _____

Date _____

1. We want _____ to have the best experience possible here. Please tell me a bit about him/her and the area of special need.

2. What does _____ like? What are his/her interests?

3. What activities or people does he/she enjoy?

4. What areas are difficult for _____?

5. Does he/she have any physical limitations?

6. Are there any physical modifications we might make in the classroom?

7. Does _____ take any medications we should know about?

8. Will _____ need help taking care of himself/herself?

9. Is there anything you would like me to tell the other children about him/her specifically?

10. What are some specific things that might help us bond with _____ ?

11. When _____ is upset, how can we help him/her be able to calm himself/herself?

12. Are there any particular sensitivities _____ has such as noise, texture, and so forth?

13. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Date _____

Student's Full Name _____ Goes by _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Age today _____ Circle: Male or Female

Exceptionality(ies) _____

School Attending _____ Current Grade _____

Circle class type Inclusion Resource Self-contained Homeschooled Homebound study for: _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

Parent(s) Names _____

Home Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Primary Phone (_____) _____ - _____ Type: cell home work Belongs to _____

Secondary Phone (_____) _____ - _____ Type: cell home work Belongs to _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone Number _____ Relation _____

Others in household Relation _____ Name _____ Age _____

Relation _____ Name _____ Age _____

Relation _____ Name _____ Age _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Allergies _____ Signs _____

Other medical condition(s) _____

Current medications _____

Symptoms and side effects _____

Instructions/notes _____

PHYSICAL INFORMATION

Difficulty moving _____ Help needed _____

Physical limitations _____

Difficulty hearing _____ Uses ASL/Sign Language? _____

Difficulty seeing _____

DIET

Help needed for eating/drinking Yes or No Describe _____

Dietary restrictions _____

Food allergies _____

Food likes or dislikes _____

TOILETING

_____ No issues/needs no help _____ Needs assistance in restroom _____

_____ Needs reminder to go bathroom _____ Wears diapers/pull-ups and needs changing

COMMUNICATION AND LEARNING

Communicates thoughts/needs how _____

Difficulty speaking _____

Difficulty understanding _____

Writing ability/level _____ Reading ability/level _____

Other information _____

SENSORY OR ANXIETY ISSUES

Sensory challenges _____

Fears _____

Calming methods _____

Behavior challenges _____

Behavior strategies _____

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Activities enjoyed with others _____

Difficulty participating _____

Difficulty cooperating _____

Difficulty making friends _____

Other information _____

OTHER INFORMATION
