What To Ask During Parent-Teacher Conferences

Middle and High School Edition

Student's Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Subject: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Period: _____

Academic Progress

1. What are my child's academic strengths and weaknesses?

2. How does my child advocate for themselves in class? Are they self-advocating for their accommodations and other supports from their IEP?

3. What key skills should my child master this year?

4. How is my child performing academically in your class compared to their peers?

5. Are there specific subjects or areas where my child shows a strong interest or struggles?

6. What teaching strategies do you find most effective in engaging my child?

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Social and Emotional Development

7. How is my child interacting with peers? Are there any social challenges?

8. What is my child's behavior like in class? Are there any concerns regarding classroom behavior?

9. Does my child frequently leave the classroom for disciplinary reasons? If so, can you explain the circumstances?

10. How do you support my child's social-emotional development?

11. Does my child exhibit any signs of stress or anxiety? For example, do they often complain of stomach aches, frequently ask to go to the bathroom, or show reluctance to participate in class?

12. How does my child interact with classmates? Are there any issues with friendships or bullying that I should be aware of?

13. How does my child handle conflict or being told to work on non-preferred activities?

14. Is my child respectful toward teachers and peers? How do they handle conflicts with other students?

IEP Implementation (if applicable)

15. Can you provide specific examples of how my child's IEP is being implemented in the classroom?

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16. Are accommodations and modifications being provided as outlined in the IEP? If so, how are they being implemented?

17. What strategies do you use to ensure that my child understands the accommodations provided in their IEP, and how do you help them develop self-advocacy skills to utilize those accommodations effectively?

Transition Services

18. What transition services are available for students aged 14 and older to support their educational and career goals?

19. How does the school facilitate the transition to post-secondary education or vocational training?

20. What skills should my child focus on developing to ensure a smooth transition to adult life?

21. How can I get more information about the specific transition services available at the school?

Classroom Environment

22. How is the classroom set up to help my child succeed? For example, are there sensory items, fidgets, a sensory corner, space to move, or measures in place to minimize visual distractions?

23. Are resources (e.g., technology, books) easily accessible?

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Instructional Techniques

24. What teaching methods do you employ (e.g., lectures, discussions, projects)?

25. How do you differentiate instruction for diverse learners?

Student Participation

26. Are students engaged in the lesson? Can you provide work examples?

27. How do you facilitate discussions or group work for those reluctant to participate due to their learning disability?

Behavior and Interaction

28. How do you address off-task behavior?

29. Are there positive interactions and collaboration among students?

30. How do you use praise and positive behavior supports and interventions in the classroom to encourage good behavior?

Support for Students with Disabilities

31. Are the accommodations outlined in the IEP being implemented?

32. How do you track which accommodations are being used and the frequency of their use? Is that data being collected?

33. How are students with disabilities supported in group settings?

Assessment and Feedback

34. How do you assess student understanding during the lesson?

35. Are students receiving timely feedback on their work?

Closure

36. How do you conclude the lesson?

37. Are students clear on assignments or expectations for the next class?

Communication and Involvement

38. How can we maintain regular communication? I prefer to contact you through email. Here is my email address for communication: _____.

39. Are there opportunities for parent involvement or workshops that I can attend to support my child better?

40. How frequently will we have follow-up meetings or check-ins to discuss my child's progress?

Next Steps

41. How can we work together to ensure my child's continued success this school year?

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42. What can I do to best support you in working with my child?

43. What do you recommend we focus on this year as my child prepares for graduation?

Conclusion

These questions are designed to guide you during parent-teacher conferences as you discuss your child's progress and needs. Since you might not have time to cover everything, it's essential to prioritize the questions that are most relevant to your child's current situation. Open communication with teachers is crucial for understanding how your child is doing in school and identifying ways you can support them at home.

To save on paper and ink, consider printing the Additional Questions list. You can use it to jot down your own questions in order of priority, drawing inspiration from our suggestions. This way, you'll be prepared for the meeting. If you have further questions after the conference, don't hesitate to reach out to the teacher via email.

Working together with educators can significantly impact your child's success during these important years. Your involvement truly matters, and together, you can help your child thrive!

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Additional Questions

1. Question:

2. Question:

3. Question:

4. Question:

5. Question:

6. Question:

7. Question:

8. Question:

9. Question:

10. Question:

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