



## Family Survey

Marie Masterson, Ph.D. [www.mariemasterson.com](http://www.mariemasterson.com)

### Family Survey and Conversation Questions

#### Family priorities

- What do you enjoy most about your child?
- What do you want us to know about your child?
- Who are the important people in your child's life? What does your child call them?
- 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 your child enjoy?
- What are your child's favorite interests and activities?
- What active play does your child enjoy?
- What dress up or make-believe play does your child enjoy?
- What are your child's favorite books and how do you read them to your child?
- Are you willing to record or teach the songs you sing to your child at home?

#### Diapering and toilet training

- When do you expect your child to begin toilet training?
- Where do you usually change your child's diaper?
- What techniques or routines do you use during diapering/toileting procedures?
- Are there specific words, cues, or songs your child associates with diapering and toileting times?
- How do you ask to change a diaper or remind your child to visit the bathroom?
- What special word or words are used for diaper ointments, the child's bottom, and other diapering processes? (These may be in English or another language.)
- What words of encouragement do you use with your child during diapering or toileting?
- 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 your child at home?
- How do you hold your baby and the bottle during feedings?
- Does your child feed him/herself at home or does an adult 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 or feeding times?



### Cultural coherence

- What are some beliefs, cultural practices, and childrearing practices that you value?
- What character traits do you value and want us to support in your child?
- What special traits, skills, and qualities do you see in your child?
- What would you like us to do to support your child while in a group setting?
- What emerging skills would you like us to notice, encourage, and support?

### Sleeping routines

- Where does your child sleep at home? Does he/she sleep in a bassinet, crib, or with the parent(s) or a family member?
- Is your child rocked at home to fall asleep? If so, is he/she placed in the crib or bed while still awake, drowsy, or when fully asleep?
- Is the child nursed at home before falling asleep or given a bottle?
- What sleeping routines do you use? What comfort items, songs, or rituals are used?
- 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 so there is no fussiness?

### Emotional and physical support

- How is your child comforted or reassured when he/she is upset?
- Are there any stresses or unpredictable changes your child has experienced?
- What health or developmental concerns do you want us to support?
- Do you tend to wait and let your child self-soothe, or do you step in right away to minimize frustration?
- Are there unique words or techniques you use 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 (toddlers)

- Describe your child's previous group experiences. Does he/she mostly play alone or show interest in others?
- How does your child manage being away from you like saying good bye? Do you have special goodbye routines?
- 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/these at home? How would you like us to help him/her in the classroom?