



Questions You May Want to Ask Parents/Guardians

Contacting families prior to an inclusion experience is essential for success, yet can cause apprehension and nervousness for you as a support staff member. The questions listed below can be used to help guide the phone conversation you have with parents/guardians. We hope it will help you feel more confident when speaking to family members and that it will help you to get additional information so that you can best support your participant.

1. Tell me a little bit about _____
2. Please share your thoughts on what I can do to best support _____ in the _____ camp/program
3. Is there any medical information I should be aware of such as allergies, dietary restrictions, allergies, seizures, etc?
4. Does _____ take any medications? If so, are there any side effects I should be aware of? Will any medications be administered at the camp/program? (Since the participants are in park district programs, park district staff should be administering any medications per the policy of that specific park district.)
5. Have there been any recent changes that will affect _____ in the camp/program (i.e. new medications, new home, death in the family, etc.)
6. Are there specific situations that make _____ anxious or that he/she finds uncomfortable?
7. Are there any specific activities that should be avoided?
8. Can you share how _____ typically adjusts to new situations/new people?
9. Could you share how _____ communicates? (verbal/nonverbal) and how he/she expresses pain _____; frustration _____; anger _____; happiness _____; affection _____
10. Are there any behavioral concerns I should be aware of? If so, are there specific strategies used at home or at school in order to address those concerns?
11. What is the best way for me to give _____ directions/instruction? Please share how he/she accepts limits/rules.

(OVER)

12. Could you share some activities that _____ enjoys?
13. Can you share any dislikes?
14. Do you know if there are activities _____ would like to try in this camp/program?
15. Are there other family members or friends that are significant to _____?
16. Are there specific goals you have in mind for _____?
17. If you will be assisting in a program in which swimming is involved: Can you please share _____'s swim abilities?
18. Can you please share strategies used by others who have assisted _____ which you have found to be successful? Unsuccessful?

Determine a way to meet and connect with each other on the first day of the camp/program