



Averari Speaks

Awareness • Voice • Education • Resources • Inclusion

School Meeting Questions & Teacher Tips

SUPPORTING YOUR AUTISTIC STUDENT

Questions to Ask at School Meetings

When attending school meetings for your autistic student, coming prepared with specific questions can help ensure their needs are being met. Here's a guide to help you navigate these meetings effectively.

General Questions

- What are the school's policies and procedures for supporting autistic students?
- How does the school promote inclusivity and acceptance of neurodiversity?
- What training do staff members receive regarding autism and neurodevelopmental differences?
- How can I best communicate with the school regarding my child's progress and challenges?
- Are there any peer support programs or social skills groups available for my child?

IEP-Specific Questions

- How will my child's IEP goals be measured and tracked?
- What accommodations and modifications will be implemented to support my child's learning?
- How often will the IEP be reviewed and updated?
- What strategies will be used to address any behavioral challenges?
- How will my child's sensory needs be accommodated in the classroom environment?

504-Specific Questions

- What specific accommodations will be provided under the 504 plan?
- How will these accommodations be implemented and monitored?
- Who will be responsible for ensuring the accommodations are followed?
- How will the 504 plan address my child's academic and non-academic needs?
- What is the process for requesting changes or additions to the 504 plan?

Advocacy Tip

Document everything! Keep records of all communications, meetings, and assessments. This documentation can be invaluable when advocating for your child's needs.

Tips for Teachers Working with Your Child

Creating a supportive and understanding classroom environment is crucial for the success of autistic students. Here are some practical tips for teachers.

General Tips

- **Establish Clear Expectations:** Provide structured routines and clear, concise instructions.
- **Visual Supports:** Use visual aids, schedules, and timers to support understanding and reduce anxiety.
- **Sensory Considerations:** Be mindful of sensory sensitivities. Allow for movement breaks and provide a quiet space if needed.
- **Communication:** Communicate directly and avoid sarcasm or abstract language.
- **Patience and Understanding:** Show patience and understanding. Recognize that autistic students may process information differently.

Social & Emotional Support

- **Social Skills Instruction:** Provide explicit instruction in social skills and social cues.
- **Peer Interactions:** Facilitate positive peer interactions and create opportunities for collaborative activities.
- **Emotional Regulation:** Help students develop strategies for managing their emotions and dealing with frustration.
- **Empathy and Acceptance:** Foster a classroom culture of empathy, acceptance, and respect for individual differences.

Strength-Based Approach

- **Identify Strengths and Interests:** Focus on the student's strengths and interests to build confidence and motivation.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Use positive reinforcement and praise to encourage desired behaviors.
- **Meaningful Tasks:** Provide tasks that are meaningful and engaging for the student.
- **Celebrate Successes:** Celebrate successes, both big and small, to promote a sense of accomplishment.



Summary

This document provides key questions for parents to ask during school meetings regarding their child's education with autism. It also gave practical tips for teachers to create a supportive classroom environment. By working together, parents and teachers can significantly contribute to the student's success.

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This resource is provided by Averi Speaks to support families, caregivers, and communities impacted by autism.

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Together, we can create a more inclusive world.