



Parent/Family Observations of the Young Gifted Child

Questions to ask during conferences or 1:1 parent meetings.

Infancy/Early Childhood Observations

- Did anything stick out to you about your child's infancy? (e.g. an early alertness of surroundings or early signs of communication)
- When did your child go through the typical milestones of early childhood, like speaking, walking, etc.?
- When did your child first learn to communicate? Was there anything that caught you off guard about your child's early communication skills?
- How old was your child when s/he began to recognize and name letters or numbers?
- Has your child ever shown intense fascination with a particular topic? Has this topic remained the same or has it changed over time?

Cognitive/Creative Observations

- How often does your child make jokes, plays on words, or puns?
- Does your child have a vibrant imagination? Please share examples.
- Does your child ever say or do something that surprises you? Please provide examples.
- Does your child read? If so, what materials does s/he enjoy reading? Does s/he seem to understand and comprehend books and stories?
- Does your child demonstrate any mathematical strengths? How high can s/he count?
- Is your child able to recognize and/or create patterns? Please share examples.
- How is your child's long-term and short-term memory? Does s/he often remember facts or details that most may have glossed over or forgotten?
- How often does your child incessantly ask questions? How detailed do these questions tend to be?
- Does your child show interest in experimentation or doing things differently than others have done? Please provide examples.
- Is your child able to spend a long period of time engrossed in learning something or participating in an activity? Please share examples.
- How organized is your child? Does s/he have a particular method in organizing belongings?
- How often does your child use logic or thought-out reasoning to discuss or argue an opinion or topic?
- Does your child demonstrate curiosity about science, nature, or how the world works? Please share examples.

- Does your child exhibit attentiveness toward or appreciation of music, artwork, dance, or other forms of visual or performance art? Please share examples.
- How often does your child sing, dance, or draw? Does your child enjoy performing or showing off his/her artwork?

Social/Emotional Observations

- Has your child ever had imaginary friends? Please provide details.
- Does your child engage in complex or sophisticated play? (This might include board games designed for older children, cooperative play, or in-depth pretend play.)
- Does your child prefer to play alone or cooperatively?
- Is your child able to connect with others easily, or is this a struggle? Please provide details.
- Does your child demonstrate a deep sense of justice and fairness? Please provide examples.
- Has your child ever vocalized concern with social or political issues and injustices? Please share examples.
- Is your child able to compromise in situations? Please share examples.
- How does your child respond to praise? To criticism?
- Does your child prefer to take risks or to play it safe? Please provide examples.
- Do you notice your child engaging in self-critical behavior or perfectionism? How often?
- How often do you witness frustration, irritation, unhappiness, or negative self-talk in your child?
- How often does your child demonstrate moodiness or overexcitability?
- Does your child display heightened sensitivity to any of the senses? (e.g. sound, light, touch, texture, or smell)
- Does your child typically sleep well, or does s/he often have difficulty falling/staying asleep?

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