

QUESTIONS TO ASK PARENTS

This worksheet may be used as a template to communicate with families of students with autism spectrum disorders. It should not be viewed as an endpoint in itself. It is meant to begin the discussion of classroom issues and challenges between educators and families.

1. What are your child's areas of strength? _____

2. What types of things work best for your child in terms of rewards and motivation?

3. Does your child have any balance, coordination, or physical challenges that impede his or her ability to participate in gym class? If so, please describe:

4. How does your child best communicate with others?

- Spoken language Written language
 Sign language Communication device
 Combination of the above (please describe): _____

5. Does your child use echolalia (repeating words without regard for meaning)?

- Never Sometimes Frequently

6. Do changes in routine or transitions to new activities affect your child's behavior?

- Never Sometimes Frequently

If yes, what types of classroom accommodations can I make to help your child adapt to change and transitions? _____

7. Does your child have any sensory needs that I should be aware of?

- Yes No

If yes, what type of sensitivity does the student have?

Visual Auditory Smells Touch Taste

Other (please describe): _____

What kinds of adaptations have helped with these sensitivities in the past?

8. What behaviors related to autism spectrum disorder am I most likely to see at school?

Are there triggers for these behaviors?

Sensory sensitivity Change in schedule or routine

Social attention Escape a boring task

Other (please describe): _____

In your experience, what are the best ways to cope with these challenges and get your child back on task? _____

9. Is there anything else you think I should know about your child? _____

10. What is the best approach for us to use in communication with one another about your child's progress and challenges?

Telephone calls – Phone numbers: _____

E-mails – Addresses: _____

Audiotape exchange

Other: _____

The following reproducible worksheet provides a daily or weekly template that teachers and parents can use to communicate about a child with Asperger Syndrome and his or her performance and progress.

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____

Overall rating of the day/week (please circle):

1 2 3 4 5
Poor —————> Excellent

Things that went well in class this day/week:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Things that could have gone better:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Teacher's Signature

Parent's suggestions and advice about things that could have gone better:

Parent's Signature