



“It's better to ask some of the questions than to know all the answers.”

James Thurber, American artist and humorist, 1894-1961

Questions to Use in Conversations & Meetings About Your Child

The following questions are **"talk tools"** that ECAC Parent Educators often use with families and professionals. They provide effective ways to request clarification in conversations about behavior, accommodations, modifications, support or intervention strategies, classroom or community situations, teaching methods, or a child's response to any of these. Asking for more information is also a great way to help you maintain your focus and cool!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:

- 1. Select the questions that best relate to your child's current situation.**
 - 2. If needed, adapt the wording so that it feels comfortable for you.**
 - 3. Have a copy on hand for phone conversations and meetings.**
- You can also use these questions when communicating through email.**

Question to begin a new conversation:

- Would you be willing to help me think about ways to help my child?

Questions for clarification:

- What are we hoping to learn or accomplish by doing this?
- What does that (skill, behavior, activity, etc.) sound like and look like?
- How is this functional/useful for my child?
- How did you come to think that way?
- What evidence (data) do we have to support that?

Questions for problem solving:

- What has already been tried? What hasn't been tried?
 - In what specific circumstances or environment did (will) you try this?
 - How long did (will) you try this?
- What are (were) the results? What has been learned by trying this?
 - Will you review the data with me?
- Why are you trying (did you try) this specific strategy for my child?
 - Is it research based?
- What will we see and hear that lets us know this is working?
- What are the other options?
- Who else can help us with this?
- What do we need to do next?