

Structured Interview for the Parent of a Gifted Child from Special Populations

This information should be used to inform the teacher about the family circumstances of the gifted student from diverse backgrounds in order to provide support. These questions need to be objective and non-judgmental. The rights of the parents to privacy should be respected at all times.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Can you describe your family structure?
2. How many children do you have? How many live in your home?
List ages and names of siblings
3. How long have you lived at this address?
4. How does this child get along with his/her brothers and sisters?
5. Does your child have good health? Any medical problems?

SCHOOLING INFORMATION

1. How many schools has your child attended? List schools and time enrolled in each, and ask parent to describe any nontraditional schooling.
2. Have you had conferences with your child's teachers?
3. Are you satisfied with the education your child is receiving? Why?
4. What do you appreciate the most?
5. What problems do you see?
6. Does your child tell you that he/she likes school? Why?

TALENTS AND ABILITIES

1. When did you first notice that your child had high ability?
2. In what ways do you think that your child is different from other children?
3. What does your child do best?
4. What seems to give your child difficulty?
5. What does your child enjoy?
6. How does your child spend her/his free time?
7. Does your child do anything that you consider unusual?

BEHAVIOR AT HOME

1. Does your child do homework? Regularly? Without being urged?
Does anyone help your child with the homework? Who?
2. Do you have time to read with your child? How often? What do you read together?
3. How much television does your child watch? Do you have any rules about programs or how much time may be spent this way?

BEHAVIOR AT HOME, *continued*

4. Does your child have responsibilities around the house? What are they?
5. Does any family member have special needs that take a lot of the family time, such as an infant or an elderly grandparent who is ill?
6. Have there been any big changes in the family such as a remarriage, death of a relative or birth of a baby? When did this occur? How did the child react? Did you notice any change in behavior? Please describe what you noticed.

EDUCATIONAL PLANS

1. What are your dreams for your child?
2. Do you see any problems in realizing these goals?
3. Does your child participate in any special programs after school or take lessons of any sort?
4. Have you considered enrolling your child in a special program or class? Which one? Why?
5. What do you think the school could do to help your child?
6. Are there any programs in the school you would like to know more about?

FOR FAMILIES WHO ARE FOREIGN BORN OR WHO SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

1. Does anyone in your family speak languages other than English? Which ones?
2. Does your child understand this language? Can your child speak or read this language?
3. Have you ever lived abroad? In what country? How long did you live there?
4. How often do you travel to your country of origin?
5. What differences have you found between schools in your home country and here?
6. What challenges has your child faced in understanding the school expectations here?

PARENTS' BACKGROUND

1. Where did you go to school?
2. What was your attitude toward your school?
3. What were your best and worst subjects?
4. How do you see the role of the teacher?
5. What grade or academic level did you complete?
6. Do you have any special interests or talents outside academics?
7. Do you work? What is your occupation?

Is there anything else that you would like to share about your unique family?