



## Special Education School Visit Questionnaire

This checklist was compiled to assist in helping to guide your visit to different school programs that you may be considering for your child and/or family. It is not an “official” checklist, but is meant to help you to ask relevant questions and to think about the appropriateness of the school and program for your child. Every child is an individual and therefore multiple factors need to be examined to adequately meet your child’s unique needs.

**School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **District:** \_\_\_\_\_

**People with Whom You Met:**

Name	Title	Contact Information

**Administrator Focus:**

Question to Ask	Response / Parent’s Follow Up Thinking
Does this school have a particular mission or educational philosophy?	
What is this school’s approach to student discipline and safety?	
What extracurricular opportunities (sports, clubs etc) are available for students? Are all students welcome to participate?	

What professional development opportunities do teachers have regarding special education? In what ways do teachers collaborate?	
Will my child have the opportunity to be an active, included part of his or her classroom community?	
Is there an active Parent Group at your school? How can I become involved to support the school community?	

### Teacher / Special Education Focus:

Question to Ask	Response / Parent's Follow Up Thinking
IEP and Evaluation – how does the team meet to make recommendations about goals for my child?	
How will my child fit in here? <i>Briefly describe your child's personality, strengths and weaknesses</i>	
What related services are available for my child at this school (speech, OT/PT, Mental Health – etc)? <i>Ask to see the therapy rooms</i>	
What kinds of opportunities do children in special education classrooms have to interact with general education peers?	
Why do you like teaching at this school?	
What does a typical day look like for a child within the special education room? <i>Scheduling of specials, recess, related services, lunch etc</i>	

## Observation Focus:

*Sometimes schools have different rules around this protocol so please ask beforehand and don't be too alarmed if this is not an offered practice – the schools many times do not want to interrupt the learning that is currently taking place.*

What to look for:	Response / Parent's Follow Up Thinking
Ask to sit in on offered class	
How is instruction being differentiated in both the general education classroom and in small group instruction?	
In what activities were the children engaged? Would they be appropriate for your child?	
Is student work displayed? What impressions do you have? Does it seem appropriate for the grade level?	
What instructional methods and materials being used?	
Do students have access to Assistive Technology if needed?	
Behavioral techniques and plans used by the teachers and staff?	

