



Top 10 Brain-Based Questions for Your Child's Teacher

Reading

What are my child's specific strengths and weaknesses in reading? Specifically, when working in a small group with my student in reading, what is an area of strength or weakness that you notice?

- Decoding?
- Fluency?
- Comprehension?
- Vocabulary?
- What can I do at home to support him/her?

Writing

What are my child's specific strengths and weaknesses in writing? What can I do at home to support him/her?

Math

What are my child's specific strengths and weaknesses in math? What can I do at home to support him/her?

Cognitive Skills

How would you say my child is doing, as compared to peers, in these areas:

Memory: How well does my child learn and remember new information?

- Does he/she require more or less support than peers? How easily is information retained?

Attention: How is my child's attention during different types of activities?

- One- on-one? Small group? Whole class?

Processing: How well is my child able to "make connections" as compared to peers?

- In reading: decoding new words, making educated guesses about the meaning of a new word, using background knowledge, or predicting and inferring
- In math: during computation (is it labored or slow?) or retrieval of simple number facts
- In writing: able to generate coherent ideas without a lot of support and begin to put them into words (orally or on paper, depending on grade)

Sequencing: How well is my child able to organize his thoughts for writing or explain his understanding of a new concept?

Expression of Thoughts & Language Skills

How often do students have an opportunity to share their thoughts with the class, i.e., "think out loud"? What do you notice when my child participates (or not)?

Student Feedback & Support

How do you like to provide feedback to students? Are there any interventions to help children who need a little extra attention? When are you available if my child needs extra help?

Motivation

What does my child find motivating? What can I do to support this?

Social Skills

How does my child do without direct supervision? How does my child handle conflict with other students?

Home Support

How can I support you, as a parent, so that my child gets the most out of this school year?

State Testing & Advancement

Do you have any concerns about my child's ability to prepare for and take the state tests? Or his/her advancement to the next grade?

Created by Hallie Smith, MA, CCC-SLP. Hallie Smith is a speech-language pathologist with extensive experience using qualitative assessment to determine strengths and weaknesses in students from a variety of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.