



Guiding Questions to Finding the Right School for Your Child

- ✓ What is the mission of the school?
- ✓ How many years has the school been in operation?
- ✓ What is the size of the school? Average class size? Teacher to student ratio?
- ✓ What are the teaching backgrounds and experience levels of teachers, specialists, counselors and therapists in the school?
- ✓ How do students enter the school? Where and how is lunch organized? Where is recess, and how is it monitored? Is there accommodation if your child has difficulty with crowds and noise, with socialization or with attention?
- ✓ Are students in the class functioning at similar levels as your child? What is the age range of students in the class?
- ✓ Is the teacher able to adequately address the various needs of students within the class?
- ✓ What curricular programs do teachers implement?
- ✓ Are curricular materials on grade-level? Are they modified, and if so, how?
- ✓ What are the methods used to teach reading, writing and math?
- ✓ Is instruction provided in whole groups, small break-out groups, or a combination of the two?
- ✓ If classes break into groups, how are the groups determined, and how large?
- ✓ If in an integrated classroom within a general education school, would your child be mainstreamed at any point in the day? If so, for which activities? And how many children would your child be placed with for these activities?
- ✓ Are there internal intervention and support services to match those recommended in your child's evaluation report, or mandated in your child's [IEP](#)? If not, what types of outside intervention support would be accommodated for your child within the classroom?
- ✓ If your child has an [IEP](#), how would intervention services be integrated throughout their school day? Would your child remain in the same classroom throughout the school day, or transition between classes? How are transitions organized and monitored by teachers?
- ✓ Does the school offer extra-curricular opportunities, sports, or special activity clubs that your child can pursue?
- ✓ Is there a school nurse on site?
- ✓ What, if any, types of transportation options does the school provide, or coordinate with an outside company? Are there additional costs for transportation?
- ✓ If public, what is the [school's quality report](#) rating?
- ✓ Is there a spot available for your child?