

TALK TOOLS

Questions to Use in Conversations about Your Child

Let's Talk!

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

James Thurber, American artist and humorist

These questions are often used by ECAC staff when talking with families and professionals. They provide effective ways to request clarification in any situation. We use them in conversations about behaviors, accommodations, modifications, support strategies, classroom 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 focus!

How to use Talk Tools:

1. Select the questions that best relate to your child's situation.
2. If needed, adapt the wording so that it feels comfortable to you.
3. Have a copy on hand for phone conversations and meetings.

Question to begin a new conversation...

Would you be willing to help me think about ways to help _____? (do what)

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 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 circumstance or environment did you try this?
• How long did (will) you try this?
What are the results? What has been learned by doing this?
• Will you review the data with me?
Why are you trying this specific strategy for my child? Is it research based?
What will you see and hear that let's us know this is working?
What are the other options?
Who else can help us with this?
What do we need to do next?