



## 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.*