**Getting to Know Each Child**

**Discussion Questions**

*Use this form in Step 1 to ask open-ended questions during casual conversations with families or on home visits. Select the questions and discussions you find most useful; it is not necessary to ask every question when getting to know a family.*

**Home Routines**

- Please tell me about a typical day for your child when he or she is not in preschool (on a weekend or on a day off from school).
- What are meal times like in your home?
- What does your child’s bedtime routine look like?
- What do I need to know about your routines at home that will better help me get to know your child?

**Family Culture**

- I’d love to know more about your family’s culture, traditions, beliefs, and values. What are ways I can support and celebrate your cultural beliefs in the preschool setting?
- Is there anything I need to know about your family culture that will better help me get to know your child?
- Would you be interested in and able to share some of your traditions and celebrations with our classroom throughout the year?

**Temperament**

- How does your child approach new things or people?
- How does she react and adapt when there is a change?
- How active is your child?
- What is your child’s typical mood?
• How strongly does your child express his feelings when excited or when angry?
• How are your child’s body rhythms, such as eating, sleeping, or going to the bathroom?
• How long will your child keep at an activity without giving up?
• How do outside stimuli (for example, phone ringing, television on) cause your child to lose focus?
• How sensitive is your child to stimulation such as touch, sounds, taste, room temperature, and so on?

Health
• How is your child’s overall physical health?
• What health history should I know about (e.g., premature birth, developmental delay, surgery, major illness, psychological trauma, allergies)?
• What can I help with regarding your child’s health and wellness?

Language
• What is your family’s home language?
• Please tell me about your child’s language skills. How do you, and others, understand him when he speaks?
• What does he really enjoy talking about?
• Please share any strengths your child has in this area of development.
• Please share any concerns you have with this area of development.

Gross and Fine Motor
• Please tell me about your child’s physical skills. Is she able to do most things she wants to do physically such as climbing, running, riding a tricycle, dancing, balancing, going up and down stairs, and so forth?
• What does she really enjoy doing physically?
• Please share any strengths your child has in this area of development.
• Please share any concerns you have with this area of development.

**Cognition and Approaches to Learning**

• Please tell me about how your child learns.
• How easily does he grasp new ideas and concepts?
• How is her memory?
• How does he feel about learning?
• When a task is difficult, how does she respond?
• What are his favorite things to learn about?
• Please share any strengths your child has in this area of development.
• Please share any concerns you have with this area of development.

**Social and Emotional Development**

• Please tell me about your child’s behaviors and social and emotional skills.
• How does she play and get along with others?
• When someone is unkind to him, how does he respond?
• What emotions do you see her express most often?
• Please share any strengths your child has in this area of development.
• Please share any concerns you have with this area of development.