

Family Quality of Life Conversation Guide

Developed by the Beach Center on Disability,
University of Kansas,
in partnership with
families, service providers, and researchers

This conversation guide was developed based on the Beach Center Family Quality of Life Survey. The conversation questions relate to the items on the survey. You can use this guide as a way to generally get to know families, or as a way to identify priorities for supports and services.

You might start with an introduction and tell the family that one of your goals is to support their child and the family as a whole to have a high quality of life. By quality of life we mean:

- the family's needs are met,
- family members enjoy their life together as a family, and
- family members have the chance to do things that are important to them.

Then, you could use each of the questions below to facilitate a conversation. For each item you could ask them to tell you how important that item is for them and how satisfied they are. You could indicate an L, M, or H for low, medium, or high levels of importance and satisfaction. Then you might ask if there is something they would like support from you on in order to make things better. These might be priorities for IEP development, or you could provide specific information pertaining to their needs. Again you can indicate a L, M, or H for the priority for providing information or support. After the parents respond, you might take the opportunity to ask them to tell you more about that item, or why they answered in a specific way. There is a space after each set of items for notes.

Family Interaction

Item	Importance	Satisfaction	Priority for Support	Info
Spending time together as a family				
Talking opening with each other				
Solving problems together				
Supporting each other to accomplish goals				
Showing that you love and care for each other				
Handling life's ups and downs				

Notes: (dreams, concerns, priorities)

Parenting

Item	Importance	Satisfaction	Priority for Support	Info
Helping your children learn to be independent				
Helping your children with schoolwork and activities				
Teaching your children how to get along with others				
Teaching your children to make good decisions				
Knowing other people in your children's lives				
Having time to take care of the individual needs of every child				

Notes: (dreams, concerns, priorities)

Physical/Material Well-Being

Item	Importance	Satisfaction	Priority for Support	Info
Having transportation				
Having a way to take care of your expenses				
Feeling safe at home, work, school, and in the community				
Getting medical care when needed				
Getting dental care when needed				

Notes: (dreams, concerns, priorities)

Emotional Well-Being

Item	Importance	Satisfaction	Priority for Support	Info
Having the support needed to relieve stress				
Having friends or others who provide support				
Having time to pursue personal interests				
Having help from outside the family to take care of the individual needs of each family member				

Notes: (dreams, concerns, priorities)

Disability-Related Supports

Item	Importance	Satisfaction	Priority for Support	Info
Having support for your child to make progress at school or workplace				
Having support for your child to make progress at home				
Having support for your child to make friends				
Having a good relationship with service providers who work with your child				

Notes: (dreams, concerns, priorities)