

Child Care Providers

Explain definition of special needs

I. Background

- A. What made you decide to get into child care?
- B. How many years have you been in the child care business?

II. Have you ever had experiences serving children with special needs?

If so...

- A. Which disabilities raise which issues?
- B. Are you able to administer medications?
- C. Are you able to accommodate children with physical needs?
- D. What is the level of training/support they've had to serve this population?
- E. Have you ever suspected that a child in your care might have a disability which had not yet been diagnosed? If so, what did you do? What was your experience in raising this concern with the parent(s)? Did you refer them to any services? If so, what ones?
- F. Costs

If not...

- A. Have you ever had a parent approach you to take their child with special needs?
 - a. If not, do you think in your current situation, you would be able to take a child with special needs?
 - b. Which disabilities do you think would be the easiest to accommodate? Which would be the most difficult?
- B. Have you ever had any sort of training in how to accommodate serving children with special needs?

III. What is their familiarity with the issues families with children with special needs face?

- A. Stress levels
- B. Work issues (e.g. when they have had to call the parents at work about the child)
- C. ASPIRE employment issues
- D. Communication with Parents

IV. System Issues (SKIP THIS SECTION IF PROVIDER HAD NEVER TAKEN CHILDREN WITH SN**)**

- A. Experience with CDS case managers
- B. Provision of special services on-site? transporting child to another site?
- C. Communication issues with child's specialists
- D. Experience with getting child care subsidies for child with special needs
- E. Have you ever sought outside help? If so, how was it? How was the responsiveness (i.e. did you have to wait for assistance or was help readily available)?

- F. We know that things sometimes just don't work out with a child in a child care arrangement—have you ever experienced that situation? If so, how did that play out? If not, can you think of any circumstances under which you'd have to ask a child to leave?

V. Support needed to take children with special needs:

- A. Training?
- B. Equipment modifications?
- C. On site support from experts?
- D. Communication with child's parents?
- E. Communication with child's specialists?
- F. Inclusion issues
- G. Additional staff?
- H. Which of these would be most helpful to you?

VI. Other questions

- A. How many children are enrolled in your facility?
- B. What type of training have you had?
- C. Have you ever heard of Child Care Plus Me or the Center for Community Inclusion? If so, how did you hear about them? (Ask this if the agency has not been mentioned earlier.)