

21 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



Asking the right questions helps families understand whether a program is a good fit.

1. What are my child's strengths, interests, and preferred activities?
2. What supports does my child need daily (medical, behavioral, communication, mobility)?
3. What goals do I want the program to support (independence, socialization, employment, recreation)?
4. How much structure versus flexibility does my child need to thrive?
5. Does my child do best in smaller, quieter environments or larger, busier settings?
6. Is the program clean and homelike?
7. Is the atmosphere warm and inviting?
8. Do participants seem comfortable in their surroundings?
9. Does the staff treat the clients/participants with dignity?
10. Did the participants in the program look happy, engaged, and respected?
11. Did the staff interact with participants in a caring, patient, and respectful way?
12. Could I picture my child being comfortable, safe, and included here?
13. Does the program's philosophy align with my family's values (e.g., inclusion, independence, choice-making)?
14. Would my child have opportunities to make friends and connect socially?
15. Is the program location convenient for our family and transportation needs?
16. Do the hours of operation fit with our family's schedule?
17. Are the costs affordable, and what funding sources (regional center, Medicaid waiver, insurance) are available?
18. Does the program offer the level of supervision my child needs?
19. Would this program provide me with peace of mind while my child attends?
20. Will it give our family a needed break or allow us to focus on other responsibilities?
21. Do I feel comfortable communicating openly with the program staff?

