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K-12 School Tour Notes

School: _____ Date: _____

What is the layout of the school like?	NOTES
<p>Get an idea of the size of the campus, where the entrances and exits are, and where classes are located, especially if your child is an eloper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the school near a busy road?• Do the gates lock? Are any gates broken that they could easily push open?• Is the parking lot gated?• If there is a playground, is it adequately fenced in?• If there are stairs or ramps, are they uncluttered?	
<p>How far will your child need to walk from the school's front door to the classroom or playground/recreation area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If your child has difficulty walking long distances, how will they be supported?	
<p>Is the school on one level, or will your child need to access an elevator to reach any services?</p>	
<p>Where are the restrooms and cafeteria located? Where are the increased mobility stresses, such as lunch, recess, or the library?</p>	

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Are any available playgrounds and recreation areas accessible?	
Where is the designated pickup or bus area?	

What is the classroom environment like?	NOTES
<p>Ask to see each type of classroom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream classroom • Resource room or learning center • Honors/advanced program classroom • Special Day Classroom • Any rooms used for therapy services • Adaptive PE areas 	
<p>How many adults are in the room? Does it seem to be enough, or are they short-staffed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to observe classrooms on two different days at different times. 	
How do the teachers interact with the students?	
Are there a lot of distractions or potential problems for kids with auditory sensitivities?	
Are classrooms set up to easily accommodate mobility devices such as gait trainers and wheelchairs?	

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What does inclusion look like?	NOTES
Are kids with IEPs segregated or separated at any point during the school day?	
Are kids with IEPs truly included in the same activities at the same time in the same place with general education students?	
Are the tech and computers in the special education classrooms comparable to those in general education classrooms?	
If Adaptive PE is separate from general education PE, ask to see those areas and the general education areas to see if they are vastly different.	

What resources will your child have access to?	NOTES
What supports are provided in classrooms? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do teachers have access to weighted vests, fidgets, or sensory seats?• Do they have access to headsets to amplify their voices or ASL programs?• What kinds of technological supports does the school have	

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<p>access to, such as iPads or speech-generating devices?</p>	
<p>If your child moves between different classrooms, will they be able to find their classrooms and navigate class transitions independently?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not, ask if the school can provide an aide in between classes, even if it's just temporary until your child gets acclimated. 	
<p>Is the school partnered with other programs or professionals to offer support programs on-site?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If they are offered off-site, will the school be able to transport your child there? How are those transports handled? 	
<p>Ask about any special equipment your child requires and how it will be supported in each of their classrooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can your child use their cell phone to communicate with you or to take photos of materials during class? 	

<p>How will the school support your child's basic needs?</p>	<p>NOTES</p>
<p>Does your child need assistance in the bathroom or require diaper changes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, where will this be done? • Is proper privacy provided? 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If your child is using the bathroom independently but needs help cleaning themselves, what supports are available?	
<p>How are medications given?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do staff members track what medications are given?• Where are medications stored?• Is there a nurse working on-site?	
<p>If the school has lockers, will using them provide a fine motor challenge?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there alternatives such as key-style locks?	
<p>What is the school's lunchtime routine?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will your child need an aide during lunch to help them navigate the cafeteria environment?• What other adjustments may be necessary for transitioning them to their new lunch routine?• Is someone available to feed children who need support?• If meals are provided on-site and your child has food allergies or sensitivities, can the school accommodate these?	
<p>If your child must change clothes for PE, will that be an issue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the locker room accessible, and if not, is there a suitable alternative such as a nurse's office or staff bathroom?	

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If the school doesn't offer recess and your child needs a movement or regulation break, where can they get this release during their school day?	
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How will the school support socializing and other activities?	NOTES
Are there opportunities to socialize, like special interest clubs and friendship circles?	
What extracurricular activities and electives are available? What kinds of clubs, art and drama classes, sports, etc. does the school offer? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are they fully inclusive?	
What kinds of support do the counselors provide?	
What does the school's anti-bullying program look like?	

Remember that any new skills your child may need to adjust to their new school can be added as goals to their IEP.

For more about what you should be thinking about as you schedule a school tour, see our articles:

- [Making the Leap: The Transition to Kindergarten](#)
- [Making the Leap: The Transition to Middle School](#)
- [Making the Leap: The Transition to High School](#)