



First Session Interview Form – Compassionate Care Approach

Instructions for Providers:

Use this form to guide a warm, open, and family-led conversation. Begin by emphasizing that our goal is to build a joyful, supportive partnership. Let parents lead the pace and always validate their insights.

Section 1: Connecting Through Strengths and Joy

Start with: "I'd like to get to know your child through your eyes. What excites them is as important to us as what they might need help with."

1. **What makes your child smile or laugh?**
 2. **What are some of the things that your child is great at?**
 3. **What are your child's favorite activities, toys, etc.? What are the ways they show they are enjoying things?**
 4. **Are there any things your child really doesn't like or avoids (sounds, textures, etc.) and, what are the ways they show you they do not like them?**
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Section 2: Family Values and Vision

Provider prompt: "Now that we know more about what makes your child unique, we'd love to learn about your hopes, priorities, and what matters most to your family." This will help us create shared values together that we can work towards.

5. **What are the most important values you have for your child's growth?**
Examples: communication, independence, relationships, joy, etc.
6. **What are some things you hope your child will be able to do in the next 6 months to a year? What would progress look like for you?"**



7. **What is one thing you and your family currently can't do that you wish you could?** *Examples: eating at restaurants, going to family gatherings, having a routine, playing with siblings.*
 8. **What are the biggest challenges you face day to day?** *"What tends to make the day harder—for you or your child?"*
 9. **"When you imagine a really good day, what happens?"**
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Section 3: Building Shared Goals & Reinforcers

Provider prompt: "Your insights help us build goals that actually fit your life and matter to your family. We also want to help you feel confident in using strategies that work for *you*."

10. **What routines or interactions with your child would you have some time to practice skills during? Are there any daily routines that you'd like more support with?**
 11. **What would feel like a win for you in the next few weeks?** *"What would you be excited to say 'my child did ___ today!'"*
 12. **What are the ways that I can best support you in learning and practicing new skills? Do you learn best from having written directions, watching how I do things and explaining, role-playing, practicing w/your child and getting feedback?**
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Discussion of Sessions and Structure

Explain to the parents about pairing and gaining instructional control and how sessions will be play-based, but will focus on building skills through play. Include the following based on your conversations (check off boxes as they have been discussed):



- **Pairing/Instructional Control:** I will start out without placing any demands on your child in order to introduce myself as someone that comes and good things happen. Slowly I will begin to place very simple demands in the context of play so that your child understands that following my directions gets those great things. Sessions will always look like play and include lots of smiling and laughing.
- **“We see your child as a whole person.”**
We’re not here to “fix” your child—we’re here to understand them, connect with them, and help them thrive.
- **“You’re part of the team, not just an observer.”**
We deeply value your insights. We’ll work with you to build skills that make life better for your whole family. EI is all about setting you, your child, and your family up for life-long success.
- **“We won’t force your child to do anything.”**
Our sessions are built on trust, play, and motivation. We build a relationship first. Your child will always have a say in how we work.
- **“We want your baby to be happy, relaxed, and engaged”**
Our job is to teach your child better ways to communicate and advocate for themselves, and introduce them to new ways of doing things, while also honoring their strengths and preferences.
- **“The sessions will be active, playful, and natural.”**
You might see us following your child’s lead, embedding teaching into routines, and working in short bursts depending on their energy and attention.
- **“We’re here to support you, not judge you.”**
We all have tough days. You don’t need to show up perfectly—we’re here to walk alongside you, step by step.
- **Feedback:** This is so important for how we learn, so please make sure that you tell me if you have a concern or question so that we can always be on the same page.
- **Consistency and Attendance:** Discuss the importance of consistency, plan out in advance any makeups/time off, schedule parent meetings, etc.



Summary Sheet

Child Name:	Caregivers involved:
Area	Notes from Family Interview
Strengths	
Likes/Interests	
Dislikes/Avoidances	
Family Values	
Priority Goals (Short-term)	
Long-Term Vision	
Challenges/Barriers	
Parent Motivators (reinforcers)	
Possible Reinforcers (child)	
Notes:	