

# QUESTIONS RELATED TO FAMILY AND CULTURE



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- What do you like to do together as a family?
- What do you do together as a family every day?
- How do you define your family culture(s)?
- What are some of your family traditions?
- What are your child's responsibilities in your family (e.g., chores)?
- What are your strengths as a family?
- What have family member's experiences with education systems in the United States been like?
- How is formal education viewed in your culture?
- Tell me about your own experiences with education as a child?
- How do you prefer to communicate with school about educational needs/concerns?
- How do you prefer to communicate with school about behavioral needs/concerns?
- How does your family's racial/ethnic background, religion, or other identities affect your child's experience at school?
- Is your family involved with community organizations (religious or cultural organizations, advocacy groups, etc.)?
- In what ways has school supported your family and honored your culture?
- Are there important cultural aspects of well-being that we should know about your child and family?
- Sometimes people participate in several traditions. Are there any other spiritual, religious or moral traditions that you identify with or take part in that you would like us to know about?
- What activities related to [tradition] do you carry out *in the home*, for example meditation or special dietary laws? How often do you carry out these activities? How important are these activities in your life?

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- What activities do you engage in *outside the home* related to [tradition], for example, attending ceremonies or participating in a church/temple/mosque? How often do you attend? How important are these activities in your life?
- Are there any important celebrations or events in your community to recognize reaching a certain age or growing up?
- When is a young person considered ready to become an adult in your family or community?
- What was the process of naming your child? Who chose the name? Does it have a special meaning?
- What similarities and differences have you noticed between your country of origin and this one? Or between your ethnic community and the school community?
  - Education
  - Greetings
  - Making friends
- What should someone outside of your culture know about
  - Child-adult relationships? (e.g., expression of respect, eye contact, physical contact)
  - Gender relationships? (expectations around appropriate girl-boy behavior, dress code)