



Signs of a Fit and Not-So-Great Fit Between Child and School¹

Name of Child's School _____

Check the words or phrases that best describe what is true about your child's experience in school:

❖ How does your child feel/act on most school mornings?

- _____Enthusiastic (+)
- _____Eager (+)
- _____Hesitant (-)
- _____Adamantly opposed (-)

❖ How does your child act at the end of most school days?

- _____Energized and happy (+)
- _____Worn Down and unhappy (-)

❖ How is the pace of learning for your child?

- _____Just right (+)
- _____Too fast (school is too fast) (-)
- _____Too slow (school is boring) (-)

❖ How challenging are the academics at school?

- _____Challenging, yet manageable (+)
- _____Unchallenging (-)

¹ This checklist is adapted from the *Picky Parent Guide*, written by **Bryan Hassel and Emily Ayscue Hassel**

❖ What kind of progress do you see in your child's overall development – in his or her academic progress, physical development, emotional development, and social relationships?

- _____ Tremendous progress (+)
- _____ Much progress (+)
- _____ Little progress (-)
- _____ No progress (-)

❖ Does your child feel that his or her abilities and interests are appreciated?

- _____ Yes (+)
- _____ Often (+)
- _____ Sometimes (-)
- _____ Occasionally (-)
- _____ No (-)

❖ What kind of relationships does your child have at school?

- _____ Many friends and playmates at school that like and accept him/her. (+)
- _____ Some friends and playmates at school that like and accept him/her and others who do not. (+/-)
- _____ Very few friends and playmates at school that like and accept him/her. (-)

❖ How would you characterize what your child is learning in school?

- _____ My child is learning important things. (+)
- _____ My child is not learning what he/she needs to learn in order to be successful. (-)

❖ How do you feel about the values your child is developing at school?

- _____ I feel confident that my child is developing sound social and ethical values that match my values. (+)
- _____ I feel worried about what my child is "picking up" at school. (-)

- ❖ How do you feel about the teaching and learning methods at school?
 - _____ Feel confident (+)
 - _____ Do not agree with the methods (-)
 - _____ Feel uncertain/insecure (-)

- ❖ How do the school hours, schedules, and transportation fit into your daily routine and yearly calendar?
 - _____ It does not cause great family stress (e.g., childcare needs outside of school hours are met easily). (+)
 - _____ Multiple children's conflicting school schedules or inadequate transportation leave me frazzled. (-)

- ❖ Overall, which statement best captures how you feel about your child's school?
 - _____ I often recommend my child's school to others. (+)
 - _____ I often wish my child attended another school. (-)

Discussion Questions

Summarize results:

- ❖ Quantity comparisons: Are there more "pluses" than "minuses" or the other way around?
 - ❖ Quality differences: On the whole, are the "pluses" more or less important than the "minuses"?
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- What's working?
 - What's not working?
 - What information do I still need to find out?