

Appendix A: Gather information from the parents

During your first meeting with the parents of a child with a chronic illness, use this worksheet to record the answers to the following questions about the child's illness and his or her educational needs.

Date of meeting: _____

Questions	Parents' response
What is the illness?	
How will it affect your child physically, mentally, and emotionally in the short, medium, and long term?	
How is the illness being treated, and what is the expected outcome?	
Are there any treatment side effects?	
What does your child know about the illness?	
What do you and your child want the class and other school personnel to know?	
How will the illness impact your child's ability to attend school?	
Will absences be planned, because of appointments, unplanned because of unexpected medical challenges, or a combination of both?	
Can I get a schedule of planned absences?	
How and when do you plan to notify me/the school of an absence?	
<u>For parents who have experience with their child's chronic illness:</u> Approximately how many absences did your child have last year?	

Questions	Parents' response
Did you have a plan to manage those absences? If so, describe the plan.	
Did the plan to manage those absences work well?	
What are your ideas for improving your child's educational experience this year?	
Has your child's condition changed?	
Have your child's treatment or related side effects changed?	
What are the best methods to communicate with you about your child?	
What is the best way to give you updates and feedback, and to provide missed schoolwork?	
<p><u>If the child does not yet have an IEP or 504 plan, you may also want to ask:</u></p> <p>What steps are you taking with the school to secure educational accommodations, such as an IEP or 504 plan?</p>	
What educational accommodations can I make to support your child?	
Which educational accommodations are most critical?	
Does your child have an Individual Health Plan (IHP)? If not, refer parents to education case manager and the school nurse.	
Other questions:	