



Painting the BIG Picture!

Children benefit when the adults in their lives are able to see **“the big picture”** by understanding them as unique individuals. Parents and other caregivers help to **“paint the big picture”** when they share who their child is, what they can do, and how others can relate and respond to the child.

Parents know many things about **who** their children are and what their children can do. After all, parents are their children’s first teachers! When parents share what they know about their children, school staff are better able to support their students to learn, participate and succeed.

Parent input can be shared for many reasons:

- To introduce the child to a new teacher, coach or caregiver
- To offer guidance, to prevent unwanted behavior and/or to encourage a positive relationship with the child
- To describe the child’s learning style, communication challenges or healthcare needs
- **To contribute to the child’s IEP** (Individualized Education Program), **504 Plan** or **Medical/Healthcare Plan**

This worksheet has been created as a way for any adult to help *“paint the big picture”* of a child they care about and know well. The worksheet guides each writer to describe the child and to provide *“tips”* on what works best. The tips allow you to make a connection between what **YOU** know and what others can do to help him/her to be successful.

Other people in your child’s life may also have valuable information to share about how they have been successful working with your child. Consider including caregivers, former teachers, therapists and others.



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big picture - the whole story of something; a complete view of something.

(*Typically: get ~; have ~;
give someone ~; know ~; see ~;
show someone~)



Add child's
photo here

Painting the big picture of... _____

Describe your child as a person and within your family, community and culture. Share interests, likes, dislikes, etc. Share what you love about your child. What do they say about themselves?

Tips/What Works: Share any suggestions or insights that would assist someone in building a good relationship with your child.

Strengths and Successes: What skills, activities or situations is your child most successful with? Think about a variety of settings both in and out of school.

Tips/What Works: Are there any supports or strategies to help your child experience the most success?

Challenges: List the areas in which your child has the greatest challenges. What are you currently working on? What are you most concerned with?

Tips/What Works: Share any supports, strategies or accommodations that you find helpful addressing these challenges. You might include reward systems, charts, schedules, etc.

Dreams and Visions: Describe your vision for your child's future. What are your child's dreams and goals? Include short-term goals and long-term visions.

Goals for the next 12 months:

Long-term Visions:

Tips/What Works: List any tips or suggestions that you believe will assist your child in achieving these dreams.



Other Helpful Information:

List any information that has not been mentioned elsewhere on this worksheet. For example, cultural considerations, healthcare needs, dietary restrictions, changes at home, fears, unusual responses, mannerisms and calming strategies to use if your child becomes upset, etc.

Here Are Some Tips From:

Ask others who have a relationship with your child to share ideas and information. This could include former teachers, therapists, caregivers, friends, extended family members and others who have firsthand knowledge about effective ways to interact with your child. What has worked well in the past? What has not? What might be useful to try in the future?

