

# ecac's Student Snapshot

## Introduction:

Classrooms are very busy and it often takes time for teachers and others to get to know and understand your son or daughter's needs. ECAC Student Snapshot is a great way to share what you've learned about your child with teachers and other school staff and to communicate areas that might be of concern to you.

Use this tool to focus on the unique things about your child that make a **BIG DIFFERENCE** at school. The information you include will help the staff to understand your child quickly, prevent problems and connect in a positive way.



## When to use it:

Anytime you want to share important information about your child quickly! Use the Snapshot to share information:

- at the beginning of a new school year,
- when something important in your child's life changes;
- when someone new is working with your child (substitute teacher, etc.); and
- at any other times you feel are important.

## How it works:

Using sample phrases from A, B, and C on page 2, create a statement that will help someone better understand your child's individual needs. It is most helpful to do this from your child's point of view – be sure to include your child in this process as appropriate. When finished, your statement will include:

- A: a description of something observable in your child's appearance or behavior;
- B: an explanation of what you think the behavior means or what might be going on with your child; and
- C: suggestions for ways to support your child.

## What to include:

- any information that would be helpful for a teacher to know right away about your son or daughter; and
- steps or actions teachers or other classroom staff can do that will make a big difference in the way the day goes during the school day.

*Think about those areas where your child is unique, including the following:*

Focus/attention, emotions, communication, academics needs, motivation, sensory issues, environmental sensitivities, medical issues, etc.



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## Personalize it:

Add photographs, drawings, and more so that this student snapshot truly represents your child.

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## A. BEGIN WITH A DESCRIPTION

CHOOSE ONE

- When you see...
- If I look...
- If I'm not...
- I'm best at...
- I'm not so good at...
- I'm really motivated by....
- I'll always talk about...
- When I seem...
- If I'm...
- Please don't misunderstand if...

## B. ADD AN EXPLANATION

CHOOSE ONE

- It usually means
- I'm probably
- I might be
- I'm having trouble
- I might be
- I'm having trouble

## C. OFFER A SUGGESTION

CHOOSE ONE

- You can help by
- I need
- Please try
- It's best not to

## EXAMPLES

1. **Area of concern:** Focus and Attention, Distractibility  
If I'm not getting my classwork done, I'm probably not keeping up with the instructions. Please try to check in with me frequently so I can show you if I get it.

2. **Area of concern:** Sensitivity to the environment. If I'm sitting near a window, I might be upset if I see dust particles in the sunshine. It's best not to seat me near the windows.

3. **Area of concern:** Getting along with others  
I'm not so good at making friends. I'm probably not sure how to start a conversation. You can help by matching me up with somebody who's outgoing and friendly.

4. **Area of concern:** Medical/Health/Energy and Stamina  
When you see me look pale or lay my head down on my desk, I might be experiencing low blood sugar. I need to see the nurse right away.



**ecac**  
exceptional children's  
assistance center

*Empowering Families ★ Improving Lives*