

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR GP'S

If you are talking with a parent of a child with special needs some sample questions include:

Information needs

Do your other children (siblings) understand the special needs of their brother or sister?

Do they ever ask questions?

How do you respond to such questions? Do you have difficulty explaining?

Family life

How do you manage as a parent of a child with special needs?

What supports do you have in place for you and your partner (if applicable)?

How does your child's disability or illness affect the family?

How does it affect your other children in particular?

What do you think they miss out on? Are you able to spend time alone with them?

Do they have extra responsibilities with regard their brother or sister with special needs?

What happens with respect the care of other children when the child with special needs is hospitalized for extended periods?

Social connections

Do the special needs of your child affect the siblings' school experience – eg homework, teasing?

Do siblings have extra responsibilities at school for their brother or sister?

Do siblings invite children over to play? Do they go to friends' houses?

Are you able to go out much as a family? Are they involved in outside community activities?

If you are talking with a sibling of a child with special needs some sample questions include:

Information needs

Do you understand the special needs of your brother or sister?

Do you have any questions about their special needs?

Family life

How do you feel about the special needs and the changes that might have occurred?

Are you able to spend time alone with mum and/or dad occasionally?

Do you sometimes feel burdened by extra responsibilities?

Social connections

Do you feel like you are the only one with a brother or sister with special needs and that friends do not understand what it is like?

Do you have people you can turn to for support?

Do you experience teasing or bullying at school related to your brother or sister?

Do they experience teasing and do you try to protect them?

Do you take part in sporting/social activities outside home?

Do you have friends over to your house? Do you go to friends houses?

Have you ever been to a sibling peer support group?

If the sibling is older you can also ask about their concerns for the future both for their brother or sister and for themselves. Do they have concerns about what will happen when parents can no longer provide care? Do they have concerns about having children themselves?