

Past, Present, Future Questions: Example sheet 1

Past

Ask the parents:

- When they first noticed the problem?
- About past grades in the same subject that indicated any issues?
- If they have spoken with the teacher?
- How they discovered the student needed help (teachers/parents working with the student, or the students voicing concern themselves)?

Ask the student:

- If there was a time they found the subject easy or if they have always struggled with it?
- If there was a time they enjoyed this subject?
- Dig deeper to pinpoint where the problem(s) started and what the missing foundations might be.

Present

***In consultation, approx. 70% of your time in the present should be spent with the student and 30% with the parent.**

Ask the student:

- Where do they sit in class? (back, front, with their friends, alone?)
- Do they follow the lesson when it's being taught?
- Do they feel they are able to ask for extra help, and do they?
- If so, does the teacher take up the work?
- Are they able to finish most of the work in class?
- Do they participate and ask questions in class?
- Do they take notes on the lesson?
- Do any of the other students in the class seem to struggle with the same issue(s)?
- This is also a good time to ask about organization of their desk, binder, workbooks and notes.
- Speak about teaching style, and learning style to build value.
- Homework and extra help: How much homework do they get for this particular subject?
- How often? (every night, or 2-3 times a week?)
- How long does it take them to do their homework for this subject?
- Is anyone able to help them with this homework?

*In this section, you are trying to get an understanding of the student's weekly workload, as it will help you build your case for the number of sessions needed per week. It also helps to speak about understanding vs. discipline (see below) and find out which is the most prevalent. This will help the tutor when planning sessions and working with this student.

Understanding:

- Ask the student about their understanding of the lesson and material while in class, vs. at home at the end of the day when doing their homework. This will help you determine how the tutoring will unfold and how much time you need to recommend for each session in the *Recommend* stage of the consultation.
- Ask the student if they feel it takes them longer than most of the other students to do the work in this subject.
- Ask them about the specific concepts/topics that they are struggling with, or if it is putting the concept into practice that is giving them issues.
- Ask if the mistakes that trip them up are small.
- Ask if homework is taken up so they actually know where they are going wrong or if it is left up to them.

Future

- How has this been progressing without help?
- Do you see the performance or grade getting better without getting the student any help?
- What would you like to achieve in the next year specifically by using a tutor?
- If you were to describe your situation in a year, what would you want to be different from where you are today?
- How do you think solving this problem would improve your day-to-day life?

*All of the above questions will help you build the case for a tutor and the recommendation you will provide in stage 3 of the consultation.