



How do I authentically answer typical admission application questions?

It can be difficult to figure out how to speak so candidly about your children, sharing their strengths and challenges. Below are suggestions for answering some of the more common application questions.

1) What are your goals for your child's immediate and long-term education?

Tip: Answer this question in 2 parts. For immediate goals, think about who you want your child to become, as both a learner and a community member by the end of middle school. For long-term education, it's time to spell out precisely what you want your child to be able to achieve for high school, if the school ends at 8th grade, or college, if the school ends at 12th grade.

2) What are your child's strengths & weaknesses?

Tip: Avoid the temptation to say that your child has *no weaknesses whatsoever*. Admission officers are educators, who know and love kids, rather than judges of the character of children. They are not trying to weed out the undeserving; rather, they are trying to find those students who can excel in their respective school community.

Besides, the admission process is comprehensive enough that they will get to know your child well and see all of those little things that you wish they wouldn't in due time. So, it's better to just tell the truth up front. When you mention a challenge, always share how your child works/is working to overcome it. The key here is to balance sharing the good news without bragging or overstating things.

3) Please comment frankly on your child's home life, including relations with parents, siblings, or other members of the household and any situations at home of which we should be aware.

Tip: Tread lightly on this one. While schools are not judgmental, this application is a school's first opportunity to get to know your child and family. Try not to provide too much complicated information.

What they really want to know is if all is well at home. Feel free to leave this blank, except in cases of death, divorce, re-marriage or grave parental illness, which might impact how a student engages with the school. As always, share the issue and how you are working, as a family, to overcome it.

4) Please provide any academic, emotional or other information about your child that you would like to share.

Tip: Again, leave this blank unless there is something serious to share. They are not asking if your child is hard-working, loves to learn and is a good friend to all. That will come through in report cards and recommendations. They are delicately asking if your child has an IEP, behavioral health issues (depression, anxiety, etc.) or has been recommended for psycho-educational testing, so that they can determine how best to meet your child's individual needs.

If none of those things apply, leave this blank. If any of the above do apply to your child, address it delicately and honestly with the school so that they can partner with you effectively to ensure your child's success.