

# The Parent Questionnaire

Doing your research ahead of time can pay off in a smooth, reduced-stress first meeting. Here, you'll find a number of questions designed to help you breeze on through. Enlist the help of your Sugar Pie on this one; after all, it's in his or her best interest that this first meeting go smoothly.

Before I took Bill to meet my extended family for the first time, I drew him a family tree, annotated with details about each relative's life, interests, and personality. Having that information helped him feel a little more comfortable amid the wild flock of family. Getting some details about the munchkins you are about to meet (and about the ones he'll be meeting, if you're a parent, too) is a good idea for the same reason—a little knowledge goes a long way. So grab your darling by the hand, sit down over a meal or a glass of win, and let the questions fly!

Child's name (Let's say it is Petunia)

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Why did you choose that name?

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How does [Petunia] feel about her name?

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Does [Petunia] have a nickname?

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How old is [Petunia]? Age? \_\_\_\_\_

When is [Petunia's] birthday? Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

What have been your favorite ages for [Petunia]?

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Why?

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What does [Petunia] look like?

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Favorite features?

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Physical build?

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Who does [Petunia] look like?

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What is [Petunia] interested in?

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Is [Petunia]: (Circle your answer)

high-/low-energy  
morning dove/night owl  
emotional/analytic  
outgoing/shy  
athletic/nonathletic

What are [Petunia's] favorite books?

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What are [Petunia's] favorite toys?

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What are [Petunia's] favorite TV shows?

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Tell me a funny story about [Petunia]:

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How has [Petunia] responded to the divorce (or death?):

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What is [Petunia's] relationship with her other bioparent like?

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How do you think [Petunia] will respond to me?

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Remember that these questions are only a starting point. The purpose of the Parent Questionnaire is to help avoid being blindsided by the unexpected. What you may find (as you munch fried calamari and quaff a pint in the local microbrewery) is that you're finding out as much about your boyfriend or girlfriend as a parent as you are about the kids. Hey, that's *good!*