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.

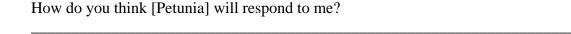
Before I took Bill to meet my extended family for the first time, I drew him a family tree, annotated with details about each relative's life, interests, and personality. Having that information helped him feel a little more comfortable amid the wild flock of family. Getting some details about the munchkins 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)
Why did you choose that name?
How does [Petunia] feel about her name?
Does [Petunia] have a nickname?
How old is [Petunia]? Age?
When is [Petunia's] birthday? Day Month Year
What have been your favorite ages for [Petunia]?
Why?
What does [Petunia] look like?

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Favorite features?
Physical build?
Who does [Petunia] look like?
What is [Petunia] interested in?
Is [Petunia]: (Circle your answer) high-/low-energy morning dove/night owl emotional/analytic outgoing/shy athletic/nonathletic What are [Petunia's] favorite books?
what are [Petuma s] favorite books?
What are [Petunia's] favorite toys?
What are [Petunia's] favorite TV shows?
Tell me a funny story about [Petunia]:
How has [Petunia] responded to the divorce (or death?):
What is [Petunia's] relationship with her other bioparent like?

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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!*