

## **Interview Questions for Potential Caregivers**

### **1. Why are you interested in caring for a child with special needs?**

This question will help provide you with information with a variety of responses, ranging from their personal backgrounds, to a desire to provide care to individuals with more complex needs.

### **2. How is caring for a child with special needs different than a child without special needs?**

This will help you to assess whether the candidate truly understands what the job entails. Make sure the candidate has advanced knowledge of your child's circumstances before the interview and can reference it directly.

### **3. Have you worked with a child with special needs before?**

This will provide you with more information about their experience and information about previous employment.

### **4. How do you find this type of work rewarding?**

As you ask this question, try to find something unique in the answer that lets you know the candidate is sincere.

### **5. How comfortable are you with following a routine?**

Routine is essential for some of our children with certain diagnoses. Assess whether the candidate understands that sticking to a routine throughout the day is a priority

### **6. Have you ever had an emergency or difficult situation while caring for a child with special needs?**

This allows the candidate to show you how they dealt with such an occurrence. If they never have, consider posing a hypothetical question to assess their judgment.

### **7. Do you have any special training or certificates? Are you willing to obtain additional training in order to effectively provide care?**

All child caregivers should have CPR certification and first aid training, so this is a question that all parents should ask of potential care providers. If your child requires medication or a special diet, ask about the provider's comfort level with adhering to those requirements.

## **8. What is your expected wage?**

Caregivers of special needs children earn more than others. Parents should be prepared for this reality and research the going rate for the position prior to the interview.

## **9. Are You Comfortable With My Supervision?**

At least in the beginning, you might feel most comfortable being present while the caregiver is with your child. Ask whether he/she is okay with you supervising during the first several sessions, and whether he/she is comfortable with frequent check-ins while he/she is with your child.

## **10. Conclusion**

Overall, parents should be forthcoming about their child's specific challenges during the interview, so the prospective caregiver can also assess whether they are a good fit. Mention any bathroom work, behavioral issues, or other hands-on work that is required.