

## Parent Checklist

### Questions to Ask When Choosing a School for Your Autistic Child

Bring this list with you when you visit schools. Tick off the areas that feel right for your child, and make notes about how each school responds.

#### 1. Inclusion and Culture

1. How does the school include children with disability in everyday classrooms and activities?
2. What is the school's attitude towards diversity and inclusion?
3. Are there any examples of autistic students thriving here?

#### 2. Support and Staffing

4. Does the school have Learning & Support Teachers (LaST) or aides available?
5. What specialist staff are on site (e.g. speech pathologists, OTs, psychologists)?
6. What training do teachers and aides receive about autism and neurodiversity?

#### 3. Individual Learning and Plans

7. Will my child have an Individual Learning Plan (ILP)?
8. How are learning goals set, and how often are they reviewed?
9. How does the school track and share my child's progress with me?

#### 4. Environment and Sensory Needs

10. Are there quiet spaces or calm rooms for when children feel overwhelmed?
11. How does the school support sensory needs (lighting, noise, playground routines)?
12. What adjustments can be made in classrooms (visual schedules, flexible seating, fidget tools)?

#### 5. Communication with Families

- 13. How will the school communicate with me (phone, email, meetings)?
- 14. How quickly are concerns followed up?
- 15. Is there a clear pathway for feedback or raising issues?

## **6. Peer and Social Support**

- 16. How does the school support my child to make friends and join activities?
- 17. Are there social skills groups or peer mentoring programs?
- 18. How do teachers manage bullying or exclusion?

## **7. Flexibility and Transition**

- 19. How does the school manage transition periods (new class, new teacher, moving between activities)?
- 20. Is a staggered or gradual transition possible if my child needs it?
- 21. How flexible are they with attendance or part-time starts?

## **8. Practical Details**

- 22. What's the average class size?
- 23. Are there autism or disability support units at the school?
- 24. How does the school work with external providers (NDIS therapists, psychologists)?