



MAMA DRAGONS

Finding Professionals to Work with Your Gender-Expansive Child and Family

Introduction

Finding the right professionals to support your gender-expansive child and your family is crucial. This guide provides essential questions to ask to ensure the professionals are informed, experienced, and supportive of gender-diverse children.

Types of Professionals to Consider

1. **Therapists and Counselors**
 2. **Medical Providers**
 3. **School Psychologists and Counselors**
 4. **Support Group Facilitators**
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Questions to Ask

Assessing Their Experience and Expertise

1. **Experience with Gender-Expansive Kids:** Can you describe your experience working with gender-expansive children and their families?
 - **Why Ask:** Ensures the professional has relevant experience.
2. **Training and Education:** What training have you completed related to gender diversity and LGBTQ+ issues?
 - **Why Ask:** Verifies their commitment to staying informed.

Understanding Their Philosophy

3. **Philosophy About Gender:** What is your general philosophy regarding gender identity and expression?
 - **Why Ask:** Ensures their views align with supportive and affirming practices.
4. **Approach to Care:** How do you approach care and support for gender-expansive children and their families?
 - **Why Ask:** Provides insight into their methods and practices.

Willingness to Work with Families

5. **Family Involvement:** How do you involve family members in the support and care of gender-expansive children?
 - **Why Ask:** Highlights their approach to family-centered care.
6. **Communication:** How do you communicate with families about their child's needs and progress?
 - **Why Ask:** Ensures open and clear communication.

Practical Considerations

7. **Availability:** What is your availability for appointments and emergencies?
 - **Why Ask:** Assesses their accessibility.
 8. **Referrals and Resources:** Can you provide referrals to other professionals or resources if needed?
 - **Why Ask:** Ensures they have a network of supportive contacts.
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Conclusion

Selecting the right professionals to work with your gender-expansive child is essential for their well-being and your family's support. By asking the right questions, you can ensure the professionals you choose are informed, experienced, and supportive.

References

1. The Trevor Project - Finding Affirmative Providers
2. PFLAG - Finding LGBTQ+-Friendly Professionals
3. Gender Spectrum - Professionals