

# STEP 2: GOALS FOR YOUR CHILD

**STEP TWO** in the school search process is to identify your goals for your child. Think about your child's uniqueness and your family's values and principles. After thinking about your own educational experiences in Step One, this process will help refocus your thinking on the most important person in the school search process: your child. Here are some questions you can answer.

**If you could look into the future and think of one word to describe the type of person you want your child to be, what word would you choose? Fill in the blanks.**

I hope that my child will be:

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What are three words that best describe your child right now?

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What are three values, traits, or life lessons that matter most to you and your family—the things you hope your child will learn from you?

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What are the three most important subjects that you want your child to learn in school—meaning the three subjects that you believe will be most important for your child's future success?

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What are the three most important skills or traits that you want your child to learn at school and at home—meaning three broader things that are not necessarily related to specific subjects but that you think are important?

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What are three things that interest your child the most? These don't have to be academic subjects. They can be anything that sparks your child's curiosity!

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Describe the types of settings or environments where your child seems to best absorb or acquire knowledge and information. What do they look like?

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Describe the types of settings or environments where your child is least likely to absorb or acquire knowledge and information. What do they look like?

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What do you think are your child's greatest academic strengths?

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What academic subjects do you think your child might struggle with the most?

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Does your child have special learning needs that should be specifically addressed at school? What are those needs?

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Has your child had previous experiences in a school or educational setting? If so, what were the things you liked the most about that setting, and what do you wish you could have changed?

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Regardless of how you define “happiness,” what are the three things, settings, or experiences that make your child happiest?

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What are your three biggest worries or concerns for your child’s future?

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What about your child’s learning needs is different from what you would have wanted for yourself in a school or learning environment?

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Thinking of your child’s learning and development, how do you define success? What does success look like for your child and for your family?

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