Learner Preference Interview

Indirect preference assessment | Learner, family, and staff input

Learner: _____ Date: _____

Completed with: _____ Relationship: _____

Ask the learner first whenever possible. Add what family or staff have noticed.
Name specific items or activities and describe how the learner likes to use them.

Interests to explore	Specific favorites / details / who shared this
Activities & hobbies Games, art, building, reading, collections	
Music & media Songs, shows, videos, apps, favorite topics	
Movement & outdoors Walking, sports, dancing, playground activities	
Sensory experiences Sounds, textures, lighting, quiet spaces	
People & interaction Company, conversation, shared play, time alone	
Foods, if appropriate Specific foods; note restrictions on page 2	
Other interests Anything we have not asked about	

How does the learner show interest or make a choice? _____

How do they show no, stop, or a wish to change activities? _____

Reported interests are starting points. Preferences can change across people, settings, and days.

Preference Summary & Next Steps

Learner: _____ Date: _____

Options to explore

Choose up to five specific options from the interview. This is a shortlist, not a measured preference ranking. Record who suggested each option.

#	Item or activity	Suggested by	How / where to offer it
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Access needs, allergies, restrictions, or things to avoid: _____

When do preferences seem different? What should we keep in mind? _____

How to use this interview

Have a conversation. Ask what the learner enjoys, using speech, AAC, pictures, objects, or their usual way of communicating. Family and staff can help fill in the details. Note whose answers you are recording.

Be specific. “Music” is a starting point. A favorite song, preferred volume, and whether the learner likes headphones give you more useful information.

Explore the options. Offer safe, accessible choices without pressure and respect “no” or a request to stop. Notice what the learner actually chooses and enjoys. Update the list as interests change.

Know what this tells you. This interview gathers reported preferences. It does not measure a preference ranking or show that an item will work as a reinforcer. If a direct assessment is needed, use a suitable procedure with the supervising professional.

Original interview informed by the RAISD interview approach; not the RAISD or a validated test.

Research reference: Kennedy Krieger Institute - RAISD