

# 13 Student Backgrounds



preschool

Kindergarten Teaching 18

## Student Backgrounds

Students come from many different backgrounds. Until you know each child's background, treat carefully.

- Never assume a child has two involved parents. Many children come from **single parent** families.
- Do not focus too heavily on **siblings**. You may have an **only child** in class.
- Not every child **attends preschool**. Do not assume they have.
- There may be **non-native speakers** in your class. Learning in a foreign language is hard. Take that into account.
- Do any students have **special needs**? You may need to follow an **IEP** (Individualized Education Program).
- Do any students have **illnesses** or **allergies**?

Find out about your students. It will make you a better teacher.

### Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some different types of families?
- 2 How can a child's background affect his or her education?



single parent



illness



sibling

### Reading

2 Read the textbook excerpt. Then, complete the table using information from the passage.

Student Backgrounds	Assumptions to Avoid
Parents	1 _____ _____
Siblings	2 _____ _____
Preschool	3 _____ _____

### Vocabulary

3 Read the sentence pairs. Choose which word best fits each blank.

1 **non-native speaker** / **allergy**

- A The student had a peanut \_\_\_\_\_.
- B Swati spoke Hindi as her first language and was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

2 **only child** / **IEP**

- A Bethany had no siblings, but she liked being a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- B The teacher reviewed the special needs student's \_\_\_\_\_.

3 **illnesses** / **siblings**

- A The student was healthy and did not suffer from any \_\_\_\_\_.
- B Hank had a large family and five \_\_\_\_\_.