



**Parents and caregivers may not know what questions to ask their prospective cleft team. Here are some important questions to ask when you're interviewing a cleft team who will work with your child.**

**Legendary Smiles wants to reiterate how important it is to research and understand what the timeline is for your child's care and what will be in their treatment plan for the future. After each question, you will see a different doctor or professional listed to know who to ask.**

**1.) Does this team use any pre-surgical techniques e.g. Nasoalveolar Molding (NAM), Latham, Taping, Nasal Elevator? (Dentist and Plastic Surgeon)**

If NAM is used:

- a) How soon do you start?**
- b) Are there specific benefits?**

**2.) Do you correct the lip and nose in the first surgery? (Plastic Surgeon)**

**3.) Do you use removable or dissolvable stitches? Why or why not? (Plastic Surgeon)**

**4.) What age is the first lip revision typically done? (Plastic Surgeon)**

**5.) When do you recommend placing ear tubes for children with a cleft palate? (ENT)**

**6.) Do you perform primary gumline surgery (gingivo-peri-osteo-plasty aka GPP)? (Oral Surgeon)**

- a) How do you determine if GPP should be done?**
- b) What are your success rates GPP at the time of lip or palate repair?**

- 7.)** Do you have samples of specialty bottles available? Which ones do you recommend? (Cleft Coordinator)
- 8.)** Is there a feeding specialist who can teach me how to use a specialty bottle? (Cleft Coordinator)
- 9.)** After my child is born, when should the cleft team see him/her? (Cleft Coordinator)
- 10.)** Do you have any other resources or parents you can connect me with? (Cleft Coordinator or Social Worker)
- 11.)** Do you take a team approach to cleft care? Why is this important? (Cleft Coordinator or Plastic Surgeon)
- 12.)** Can you show me before and after photos of your results? (Plastic Surgeon)