

Parent -Teacher Communication

Build a Relationship with Your Child's Teacher(s)

1. Start communication with your child's teacher at the start of the school year. Do not wait until a question, concern, or disagreement comes up.
2. Become a *partner* with your child's teachers.
3. Make your date for a conference at a convenient hour for you and the teacher.
4. Request a conference after grades, progress reports, or test scores have been given.
5. If need be, ask for an interpreter from your school. Be sure to do so in advance.

Before the Conference

1. Talk to your child.
2. Prepare a list of questions.
3. Go to the conference prepared.
4. Remain calm.
5. Express your opinion clearly and listen closely.
6. Ask to find out about his/her strengths.
7. Take notes on important comments.
8. Follow up on any agreements.

Make sure each party does what is agreed upon.

During the Conference Questions to Ask

1. Is my child learning at a proficient or advanced level in reading, writing, math, or showing progress in English?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of my child?
3. Does s/he need additional help in any subject?
4. What help or services are available in school or the community if my child needs extra help?
5. What are the standardized exams that my child will take, and how are the results from those tests going to be compared to others?
6. What talents or skills does my child demonstrate?
7. Does my child complete his/her homework regularly?
8. Is my child reaching all of her/his potential?
9. Does s/he participate in class discussions?
10. How can we get in touch with you outside of conferences?
11. What can I do at home to improve my child's progress?

Reviewing the Conference

- Did the teacher listen and respond to my questions and concerns?
- Did the teacher look interested and familiar with my child and his/her work?
- Did the teacher try to involve me in the process of identifying the needs of my child?
- Did I mention the areas I think are strong and weak for my child?
- Did we come to an agreement to help my child in school?
- When will I be in touch with the teacher?
- When is the next conference?

Evaluate & Monitor Your Child's Academic Progress

Help your child with his/her homework

- Review the teacher's homework policy.
- Review your child's homework each night.
- Notice how your child does his/her homework.
- Observe the grades s/he receives.
- Observe his/her weak areas.
- Ask your child if s/he understands the homework.

Visit your child's classroom

- Notice how well your child participates and how s/he gets along with others.
- Notice how the teacher interacts or responds to your child.

At home, ask your child to read aloud

- Even if you do not speak English, you can perceive if your child reads fluently, smoothly, or if s/he has difficulty saying some words.

Observe your Child's Behavior

- Notice if there is change in his/her attitude or energy level toward schoolwork.
- This could indicate that your child may not be resting enough, or is worried about other things that disturb his/her concentration, and distract from school work.

Talk to your child about school

- Does your child like school, the classes, the classmates?
- Does your child find schoolwork stimulating, frustrating or boring?
- How does your child feel about his/her teacher(s)?