

Tips for Parents:

Talking with your Child's Teacher

A successful Parent-Teacher Conference should:

- ★ Be a productive two-way exchange of information
- ★ Be conversational in style
- ★ Connect the home and school



Parents can prepare for a Parent-Teacher Conference by:

- ★ **Talking** to their child everyday about school.
- ★ **Making** a list of questions to ask and taking it with them.
- ★ **Asking** their child if there are any questions that he or she would like the parent to ask.

Always:

- ★ **Start** with the positive.
- ★ **Say** you have questions.
- ★ **Take** the lead if necessary. (i.e. "I've been looking forward to meeting you and discussing ways to support my child's learning.")
- ★ **Avoid** becoming defensive.
- ★ **Ask** for specifics.
- ★ **Focus** on solutions.
- ★ **Take** notes.
- ★ **Summarize** the steps each of you will take to support the child at school and home.
- ★ **Set up** the next conference time.
- ★ **At home**, show and active interest in school and provide your child emotional and academic support.

School visits are also valuable because they allow parents to:

- ★ See what is going on and get a feel for the class and the teacher
- ★ See their child successes and achievements

Contact the teacher when:

- ★ There is a **significant family change** (a move, divorce, baby, adoption, illness, death)
- ★ There is a **behavior change**
- ★ There is **sudden or unexpected drop in grades**
- ★ There is a **concern** or something doesn't seem right (trust your instincts)

It is Very Important to Keep Communication Lines Open!



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