

# How to have Effective Parent-Teacher Communication

Presenter

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# What is Effective Parent-Teacher Communication?

- It is communication that helps the child perform well in school. It is an activity by which the home and school share the jobs of communicating, motivating, ensuring homework is done, and implementing effective study habits.
- Five tips to implementing and improving parent-teacher relationships are:



# Be Positive

- Begin communication with a positive attitude, even if you had negative experiences in the past.

# Get comfortable with the school and teacher


- Talk with the teacher to learn what the expectations are in the classroom and develop a good working foundation at home.
- Participate in school activities: attend Open House, PTA meetings, volunteer in the classroom, or find activities and/or programs that fit your schedule.

# Make Initial Contact

- Parents should feel comfortable with initiating communication with their child's teacher.
- Ask the teacher what is the best method and time to contact them (phone, note, email, etc.)

# Keep the lines of communication open

- This will allow you to provide specific assistance to your child's needs
- Discuss and agree upon what concerns and problems may need to be monitored
- For serious problems, you may need to have daily contact through a school-home note program (contracts)



# Follow through with what you say and stay on top of what the teacher should be doing

- Agree to check child's papers
- Check child's folders for important papers and agendas
- Stay in contact with teacher about behavior and grades
- Remain up to date with conferences, interims, and report cards

# When to Have a Conference?

- At least two times during each nine week session
- Conferences can be face to face, phone call, or e-mail
- You do not have to wait for the teacher to make contact, YOU can call to schedule a meeting



# Preparing for a Conference

- Talk with your child:
  - What do you like or dislike about school?
  - Is there anything you want me to tell or ask your teacher at the conference?
- Make a list of questions:
  - How is my child doing?
  - Is my child achieving at grade level?
  - Does my child perform well when working alone?
  - How is my child getting along with other students?

# Preparing for a Conference Continued

- What does my child do well in school?
- In what areas does my child need help?
- What is the expectation of the students?
- What can be done at home to help my child do better in school?

# Preparing for a Conference Continued

- Plan what you want to tell the teacher:  
Think about things that will help the teacher develop a better understanding about your child's:
  - Feelings toward school
  - Health problems
  - Interests, activities, and friends
  - After-school habits

# Concerns that Arise

- Moodiness
- Being unusually tired, sad, or angry
- Changes in eating or sleeping habits
- Upset by an illness in the family or other stressful situations
- Spending time with certain “friends”
- Acting out

# During the Conference

- Take notes
- Listen carefully
- Ask questions
- Look over samples of your child's work and ask to see child's grades
- See where your child sits in the class
- Look over how the classroom is set-up
- Ask about school programs

# After the Conference

- Take time to thank your child's teacher
- Review what has been discussed or your notes
- Follow through on what actions you are going to take at home and remain in contact with the teacher to make sure they follow through on their classroom commitments