



Helpful Tips for Parents

Preparing for a Parent-Teacher-Student Conference

To be sure you go away from a parent-teacher-student conference with all of the information you want, consider the following suggestions:

Make a list of questions to ask the teachers.

This is your chance to ask questions of your child's teacher. Take time before the conference to make a list of questions that you want answered.

Talk with your child before the conference.

Discuss what your child has been learning. Find out about recent class activities. See if your child has questions for you to ask the teacher. Is anything bothering your child that the teacher should know about?

Be ready to pass on some "good news" to the teacher.

Teachers need and deserve good news. Be ready to let the teacher know when your child has reported good news from school. Remember the special help from the teacher, the words of encouragement, the topics that interested your child.

Talk openly and honestly.

Share your frustrations and successes regarding your child's schooling and home life. A better understanding of your child's concerns and priorities can help a teacher in relating to your child.

Identify ways you can best help your child.

Talk to the teacher about ways you can help your child at home. Maybe it's providing a regular time and place for study. Maybe it's talking more with your child about school or listening to your child read aloud. Ask the teacher for suggestions.

View your child through the teacher's eyes.

Some children behave differently in school than at home. Use the conference as a way to learn more about your child, and to help the teacher understand more about him/her, too.

Express your concerns.

Don't be afraid to express your concerns about your child's performance, the classroom environment, peer pressure, or any other area that may be affecting your child's education.