

Parent Tips: The Parent Teacher Conference



Before the Conference

Think about special questions or concerns you have. Talk to your son or daughter to get ideas. You might want to make a list. Be prepared to let the teacher know about your child's:

- Special interests/skills
- Study habits
- Medical challenges that could affect learning
- Recent experiences (e.g., death, divorce, etc.) that may affect behavior in school

This will help the teacher understand your child.

When you Meet the Teacher

You might want to ask questions like these...

- *How is my child doing in school?*
- *Is my child having challenges? What are they? How can I help at home? Is tutoring available?*
- *What is your homework policy? What happens if my child does not hand it in?*
- *How much time should be spent on homework? How often do you assign homework?*
- *How often do you give tests? How is my child doing on the tests so far?*
- *How can I get in touch with you or make an appointment to meet with you again?*

This will help the teacher understand your child.

Some questions for parents of elementary school students

- How well does my child seem to feel about his or her own abilities? What can we do to make sure these feelings are positive?
- Is my child in special groups for reading or math? What groups? Who are the teachers?



Additional questions for parents of junior high intermediate students

- Will the school help my child choose a high school?
- When are high school applications due?
- Can you recommend any high schools or programs?
- Does the school offer career awareness classes or programs? Share your ideas about your child's career interests.

Further questions for parents of high school students

- What kind of college counseling is my child getting in school?
- Where can we get help in completing college applications?
- Where can we get information about financial aid for college?
- What kind of career counseling and preparation is my child getting in school?
- Does the school have a job placement program?



"BE HEARD"

Keep these principles in mind for a great parent-teacher conference

- B**est intentions assumed
- E**mphasis on learning
- H**ome-school collaboration
- E**xamples and evidence
- A**ctive listening
- R**espect for all
- D**edication to follow-up



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