

After the meeting

- Talk over the results of the conference with your child.
- Stress the good things the teacher said. Talk about suggestions the teacher made for improvement and come up with a plan to carry these out.”
- Don’t hesitate to ask for another meeting with the teacher if you think it is necessary, or leave a message for the teacher at the school when you have a concern.
- Follow up your conference with a thank you note.
- Work together with the school administration to make school an effective and positive experience for your child.

“An interested, informed parent is an asset to both child and teacher”

“Don’t be fooled by protests from your child that, “Nobody’s parents go to Meet the Teacher Night!” In fact, most parents do attend - and students are pleased that their parents are interested even if they’ll never admit it.”

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Being Prepared for Parent-Teacher Interviews



Tips for Parents, Teachers and Students

As a parent, are you nervous about parent-teacher interviews? If you are, it's not surprising. Now is the time to meet the members of the school staff who will have so much impact on your child's - and your family's - life in the months to come.

Here are some tips from teachers

Always be aware. If you notice your child is struggling with school work, or bothered by interactions with other students or the teacher, contact the teacher right away. Problems are solved more quickly with early intervention.

Attend school events. Whether they say so or not, children appreciate having their families participate in school activities.

Help out. If your child or teacher mentions an area he or she needs to work on, be sure to give or get the extra help they need to improve. Also volunteer in school if you can.



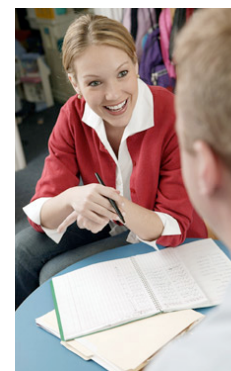
Keep up with class activities. If the teacher sends home regular updates on what the class is studying, read them. Ask your child, "What are you working on now? Look at their textbooks.

Questions you may want to ask the teacher

- What will you cover in this grade or subject this year?
- What are your expectations for homework? Has my child missed any assignments?
- How are my child's work habits? Is class time used well?
- Does my child read at the level you would expect from this grade?
- Is my child able to do the math you would expect for a student in this grade?
- Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Why?
- Has my child missed any classes other than the ones I contacted the school about?
- Does my child qualify for any special programs - for example - gifted or talented, English as a second language, or learning disabilities?
- Does my child get along well with the other students in the class? What is her/his attitude towards school, peers, and adults?
- What can I do at home to help my child be more successful at school?
- Can you explain school terminology/ methods for instruction?
- How do I inform the school about my child's allergies?

Before the meeting

- Talk to your child. Ask them to tell you what they think are their best and worst subjects and why. Ask if they have any questions they would like for you to ask.
- Write down any questions you can think of to ask the teacher. You might ask about grades, homework, attitude, behaviour, strengths, weaknesses, test scores.



• Think of things the teacher needs to know. You know your child better than anyone else. These things may include your child's favorite subjects, after school activities, special medical needs and sensitive issues such as weight or shyness.

During the meeting

- Start the interview on a positive note. Both you and your child's teacher are trying to do what's best for your child.
- Create an action plan. Ask the teacher what you can do at home to reinforce what's happening at school.
- Use the list you prepared of things you want to tell the teacher and the questions you wish to ask.
- Ask the teacher for an outline of what will be covered in your child's subject area.
- Listen carefully and make notes as the teacher talks about your child's progress.