



Parent-Teacher Conferences

The aim of a good parent-teacher conference should be for both the parent and the teacher to learn about the child. It is important that we ask questions but also offer information about our children to their teachers. Before you attend the conference, think about what you want to know and what you really want the teacher to know about your child.

Questions you might like to ask your teacher

Most parent-teacher conferences are limited in time. Don't try to ask all of these questions - choose the ones that make most sense to you and reflect the things you most want to know.

Academic content and skills

What should I **not** be worried about? What is my child really doing well at?

Talk about what your child is really good at and what he or she loves – is he reading a favorite book series? Does she love math or singing or baseball? What motivates your child to try hard and achieve?

What is the important content my child needs to learn by the end of this semester?

Ask your teacher if the school holds curriculum or learning nights for parents. These are a great opportunity for parents to learn about what kids should be learning, and to learn about how it is taught. The aim of these sessions is for parents to really engage with the work their kids will be doing and to feel more confident about understanding the content and helping with homework.

Are there areas where my child is behind or having trouble with class work?

Tell the teacher if you have seen your child struggle or get frustrated with homework or is having any trouble with skills like reading, speaking aloud, or math.

Social and learning skills

How does my child fit in at school this year?

*Tell your teacher about your child – What do you love about your kid? What he or she is really good at? What behaviors do you see at home? Does he get easily frustrated and give up if the work is hard? If you (or your child) have completed the **Learning Habits survey** print a copy and share it with your teacher.*

Does my child participate well in class discussion and group work?



RAISE THE BAR

Expect More. Achieve More.

Does my child take risks in his or her learning? Or is he afraid to make a mistake?

Your teacher will usually have seen a lot of kids going through the same emotional and social development phases. Tell your teacher if you are worried about your child's social development.

How to help at home

What should I do to help my child learn at home this semester?

Talk to your teacher about what you or others in your household already do to help your child with learning. For example, do you help with homework? Read to your child? Look for online games and activities that are educational? Ask math questions like times tables before dinner? Have conversations about school?

What should I do when my child is struggling? How should I help with homework?

How much time should my child be spending on homework each week?

Talk about the time your child is spending on homework now. Ask the teacher what is expected for that grade and how to balance that with other things like playing with friends and siblings, spending time on sport, music and other activities including chores, and family time, especially if your child has responsibilities at home that the school may not know about.

In the classroom

How is creativity encouraged and rewarded in your classroom?

How do you know if my child is on track? What data do you collect to know this?

Test scores are one form of data that teachers need. Observation, hands-on classroom tasks, diagnostic quizzes, and one-on-one conversations between teachers and students are other ways to track progress.

How do you know if the kids are being challenged?

Tell your teacher if your child is finding homework or school work too hard or too easy. Your teacher can help you work out a plan together to keep your child engaged.

Common Core Standards

How has Common Core changed the way you teach and how kids learn?

What do I really need to know about Common Core for my child's learning this year?