

Parent -Teacher Conferences



Workshop Goal

**To provide ideas for successful
parent/teacher conferences**

Workshop Objective

**Identify strategies that provide positive
communication during a parent/teacher
conference**

**What made a past
parent/teacher conference
effective for you?**

Not effective?

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**Identify strategies that provide positive
communication during a parent /teacher
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Questions *parents* can ask kids before a parent/teacher conference

- Do you have anything you would like me to discuss with your teacher?
- What do you like about school?
- What do you like least about school?
- What is your favorite subject?
- Are you getting along with the kids in your class?

Questions *parents* can ask kids before a parent/teacher conference (continued)

- Who are your friends in the class?
- Who are the adults you feel closest to at school?
- What are some school activities you would like to spend more time doing?
- How do you handle school responsibilities?
- How do you like to be rewarded for a job well done at school?

What should teachers consider before a conference?

- What is the purpose of this meeting?
- What do I want the outcome of this meeting to be?
- What are the strengths I see in this child?
- What are this child's areas of need?
- Things I feel the parent should know:
 - academic progress
 - how the child gets along with peers and teachers
 - discipline strategies I use
 - extracurricular activities of interest to the child

What should teachers consider before a conference? (continued)

- School resources that are available to assist in the child's academic progress.
- How I measure the child's progress.
- How we can work together to maintain success and work on problem areas
- How I can keep the parent in touch with what is going on in the classroom
- School accountability plans that may be of interest to the parent.

What should parents consider before a conference?

- What is the purpose of this meeting?
- What do I want the outcome of this meeting to be?
- What are my child's strengths?
- What are my child's areas of need?
- Things I feel the teacher should know about **my child**: personality traits, how he/she gets along with friends and family, effective discipline strategies I use at home, extracurricular activities, health of my child, rewards my child prefers

What should parents consider before a conference?

(continued)

- My perception of how my child is doing academically
- How can I be involved in assisting in my child's academic progress?
- How does the teacher measure my child's academic progress?
- How can we work together to maintain success and work on problem areas?
- How can I keep open communication with the teacher?

Ten tips for effective parent/teacher conferences:

- 1. Be on time and end on time – parent and teacher.**
- 2. Take notes during the conference.**
- 3. Begin conference with genuine positive comments.**
- 4. Avoid distractions.**
- 5. Have an open mind and a positive intent.**

Ten tips for effective parent/teacher conferences:

(continued)

- 6. Provide contact information and preferable contact times.**
- 7. If something is not clear, ask for clarification.**
- 8. Be open about problems that may be affecting the child's learning.**
- 9. Share support and resource information.**
- 10. Develop an action plan for the child.**

To have an effective conference...

- **Children need to be involved in the conference in order to get their buy-in to the action plans made at the conference.**
- **When parents and teachers agree on the purpose for the conference, it is much more productive.**

Do any of these sound familiar?

- **The child says the teacher is picking on him/her.**
- **The child is having problems with school work.**
- **The child feels that the work at school is too easy.**
- **The child has no friends.**

Following Up...

It is important to:

- **Follow up on the tasks assigned to you on the action plan.**
- **Share the plan with your child.**
- **Stay in touch and evaluate how the plan is working. Make changes if necessary.**
- **Write a thank-you note to express your appreciation.**
- **Set a date and purpose for the next conference**

Contact Us – We're Here to Help!

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