12 questions to ask during a parent-teacher conference

[Kate Ward](https://www.care.com/c/katew743/)

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## Parent-teacher conferences are one of the most useful tools that we have as parents to ensure our children are getting the most from their education. But as helpful as they are, they can be downright stressful for everyone involved. Parents want to get the lowdown on how their children are doing, and teachers want to make sure they communicate everything a parent needs to know about their teaching style and how the child is performing in school — all in a 15-minute block of time.

**Questions to ask at a parent –teacher conference**

1. May I tell you about my child? No one knows your child better than you do.
2. Tell the teacher what’s going on at home.

Situations like illness, divorce or a new baby may affect your child’s school experience.

1. How is my child doing socially? It’s important to know how your child interacts with other children.
2. How is my child doing emotionally? Know your child’s emotional health at school

**Ask about your Child’s Academic performances**

1. What are my child’s academic strength and weaknesses? Getting the teachers perspective can be eye-opening.
2. Is my child performing on grade level? Each child is different and has different strengths and learning abilities.
3. What do academic performance assessments mean? Typically assessments are given for school –level programs monitoring purposes.
4. Does my child need help in any area? Work with your child’s teacher to create a plan to help your child progress well in school.

**Questions to ask if your child is having trouble in school**

1. May I share a concern? If you’re worried about a situation at school, bring it up with the teacher
2. Can you fill me in on a particular situation? When your child has complaints about what’s going on at school.

**End with these important questions**

1. How can I help at home to support what you’re doing in the classroom? Maybe there is prep work you can do at home or skill practice your child can work on at home.
2. What is the best way to communicate with you? It’s important to get an understanding of how they prefer to communicate.

Shared by: Gwendolyn Scott, Parent and Family Engagement Specialist

Mill Creek Elem. School Phone: (803) 908 - 9594