

Florida Inclusion Network

The Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) collaborates with all districts and schools to provide customized services and supports ensuring all students with disabilities have the same educational, social, and future opportunities as their peers. In partnership with districts, FIN facilitates the implementation of inclusive best practices through:

- Data-driven, student-focused planning and problem-solving across districts and schools.
- Data-driven professional development and technical assistance to increase knowledge and skills of district and school personnel.
- Coaching and resources for district and school personnel to sustain inclusive best practices.
- Sharing information to build collaborative relationships between families, schools, and districts.

Our facilitators can provide information about effective inclusive practices, family-school collaboration and communication, opportunities for networking with other families, and ways to access local resources and support.



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Why and How to Partner With Your Child's Teacher

By Amanda Morin

This article is part of **Take N.O.T.E.** A simple, step-by-step tool to help you figure out if the struggles you're seeing might be signs of a learning and thinking difference. [Learn more](#)

If you've noticed signs in your child that concern or confuse you, talking to the teacher is a good first step. Sharing information can give you a better idea of what's going on.

But the relationship doesn't stop there. The teacher is an important partner in getting answers and finding the best ways to help your child thrive. Together you can explore strategies to use in class and at home. And you can talk about other ways to support your child at school.

Learn why it's important to engage and partner with the teacher, and how to do it.

How Working With the Teacher Helps You and Your Child

You and your child's teacher share a common goal: Providing the best learning experience for your child.

Working with the teacher can give you an even better understanding of your child. It also gives you the chance to share concerns about what's happening at home that the teacher may or may not be seeing in school.

For example, the teacher might tell you your child gets frustrated about assignments and says things like "Why do we have to learn this?" Maybe you see the same frustrated reaction when it comes to homework.

By keeping each other informed, you can come up with consistent ways to respond to frustration at home and at school. Knowing that you're working together can boost your child's confidence, too. When you and the teacher have the same expectations and use the same language, it shows your child that everyone's on the same page.

How Working With You Helps the Teacher

Understanding what your child has trouble with (and your child's strengths and interests) helps the teacher build an [approach to learning that works](#) for your child. It also helps the teacher predict what might be hard and figure out what kind of support would help. Having that information makes it easier for the teacher to engage your child in learning. For example, say writing is a struggle and the teacher knows your child has a passion for dogs. The teacher could find a way to work something about dogs into a writing assignment.

How to Engage Your Child's Teacher

Partnering with your child's teacher starts with an open conversation about your child's challenges. You don't need to wait for parent-teacher conferences. Reach out to the teacher as soon as you notice differences or difficulties.

Here are three ways to engage with the teacher to get your child the best support. Talk about strategies the teacher can use in the classroom. There may be [supports or teaching techniques](#) that can help your child.

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Talk about [having your child evaluated](#) to get formalized support at school. The more you know about the challenges, the better able you and the teacher will be to help. Bring your child into the process. Make a 3x3 card to share with the teacher: three strengths, three challenges, and three strategies that work at home.

3x3 Card to Help Teachers Get to Know Your Child—Download a template to use by clicking below:



Key Takeaways

- Partnering with your child’s teacher can give your child a confidence boost.
- Knowing more about their students helps teachers tailor instruction for kids.
- Talk with the teacher about strategies that could help at school.

Source: <https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/partnering-with-childs-school/working-with-childs-teacher/why-its-important-to-partner-with-your-childs-teacher>.

About the Author:

Amanda Morin worked as a classroom teacher and as an early intervention specialist for 10 years. She is the author of *The Everything Parent’s Guide to Special Education*. Two of her children have learning differences.

www.understood.org

10 places to find free books for your child

Having lots of books at home can encourage your child to read more. Choosing new books can be a fun adventure. Swapping out old ones can freshen up the supply and help keep your child interested in reading.

But if stocking up on books sounds expensive or maybe even exhausting, the good news is you can do it for free. And in some cases, you don’t even have to leave home.

Free hard copies of kids’ books

Lots of people still love the look and feel of old-fashioned paper-and-ink books. Young kids may like turning the sturdy pages in board books. Older kids may like dog-earing a page corner or jotting their thoughts down on sticky notes to mark key passages.

There are a bunch of programs like [Book Trust](#) and [Reading Is Fundamental](#) that partner with schools to help kids choose free or low-cost books for their home libraries. Here are five more places where you can find free hard copies for your child.

For more information and to **read the entire article** click the following link:





Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System

FDLRS Parent Services - Sunrise

FDLRS Parent Services – Sunrise provides information, training, and support to Polk, Lake Wales, and Hardee County Public Schools and families, in order to promote effective parent participation in the education of children who are exceptional and/or have special needs.

Parent services include assistance in the development of family-friendly programs, training and support for services for children with disabilities, and the support of partnerships between schools and parents to support student achievement.

Some Services Offered

- Assistance and guidance for parents and caregivers
- Coordination/Support for Local Parent Conferences/Events
- Parental Involvement in Education
- [Special Ed Connection](#)
- Connect families to community resources
- Distribution and advertisement of the [Florida Department of Education ESE Survey](#)
- Workshops for Parent Groups and Conferences

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Parent Survey

Each year, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) conducts a survey designed to provide FDOE and the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), with information on how well Florida's schools are partnering with parents and promoting parent involvement in their child's education. The survey is open to all parents of children with an individual educational plan (IEP) receiving ESE services from preschool age through grade 12 and is not intended for parents of students receiving only gifted services through an educational plan (EP). All states must collect this data as part of their State Performance Plan, as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The survey is available from February 1 through to May 31 of each year.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Florida Department of Education ESE Parent Survey. We truly value the information you have provided.

You can visit the [Florida Department of Education Exceptional Student Education Parent Survey](#) page to view prior-year results.



University of Florida Literacy Institute Parent Resource Hub

The University of Florida Literacy Institute's Parent Resource Hub is a collection of web-based language and literacy resources was compiled and curated by UFLI faculty and graduate students. The Hub is divided into grade levels and within each grade level you will find a section of web-based information for parents and numerous activities for your children.

The University of Florida Literacy Institute is constantly adding to and refining their resources regularly, so check back often for updates and new additions.

To access your child's grade level simply click on the images below and you will be redirected to the online location:

BIRTH TO PRE-K

PRIMARY (GRADES K-3)

INTERMEDIATE (GRADES 4-6)

SECONDARY (GRADES 7-12)

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