

Talking to Your Child's Teacher

Introduction

When it comes to your child's success, two of his or her most important allies are you and his or her teacher. Your child's teacher wants to hear from you. You've known your child a lot longer than he or she has, and any input you can share about what will help your child learn and succeed in the classroom is welcome. The teacher, on the other hand, is in a great position to observe and share how your child is doing academically and socially while at school. Working together, you and your child's teacher can provide support that will help your child succeed. Find tips below for helping you keep the lines of communication open with your child's teacher.

Table Talk

Talk with your child today about how school is going. What you learn from your child during table talk, might be helpful to share with his or her teacher later. You might ask your child:

1. What are you studying right now in school?
2. Which class are you enjoying the most?
3. Which class are you struggling in? Why?
4. Who are your friends at school?

Tips & Tricks

Below are some tips for establishing a positive line of communication with your child's teacher.

- **Learn the best time to reach your child's teacher.**
Contact your child's teacher at the beginning of the new school year to find out the best time to reach her once school gets going.
- **Learn the best way to communicate with him or her.**
Some teachers may prefer an e-mail message, others might prefer a text message, and some may prefer a phone call. Find out which option works best for your child's teacher.
- **Be prepared.** Write down questions for the teacher before you talk with him or her.
- **Listen.** Give the teacher time to share with you any concerns he or she might have about your child.

Plan & Practice

You can start planning and preparing now for your first conference with your child's teacher. Begin by talking with your child about how school is going.

- Ask your child what subjects he or she likes best, and the subjects that are a challenge.
- Find out if he or she has friends he or she enjoys spending time with during lunch and recess.
- Learn from your child if there are any concerns about school you should bring up to his or her teacher.
- Contact your child's teacher and introduce yourself.

Learn More

For more information on how using planners can help keep you and your child organized, check out the sites below:

- **Canadian Family**
<http://www.canadianfamily.ca/kids/3-tips-for-a-successful-parent-teacher-conference/>
Three tips for a successful parent-teacher conference.
- **PBS Parents**
https://www.pbs.org/parents/goingtoschool/talking_teachers.html
Suggestions on how to talk to your child's teacher.
- **Parents Canada**
<http://www.parentscanada.com/school/how-to-interact-with-your-child-s-teacher>
How to interact with your child's teacher.
- **Government of Canada/Gouvernement du Canada**
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/after-education-involve.asp>
Getting involved in your child's school life.
- **Calgary Board of Education**
<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b104/interview.htm>
Parent-Teacher interviews.