TIPS For Families | HOW TO SHARE DATA EFFECTIVELY

Talking With Teachers About Your Child's Progress

- Ask the teacher to show you samples of your child's work to get a full understanding of your child's performance. Find out how the assignments show what your child knows or is able to do. This information will help you see whether your child is on track to achieve learning goals.

- Ask for explanations for any unfamiliar terms. Teachers often get used to using "buzz words" in their work, particularly when discussing tests and other assessments.

- Find out from the teacher what the time frame is for posting student data online and responding to parents' questions. Knowing this will help you understand what to expect regarding communication with school staff. Keep in mind that some information, such as homework or attendance, might be posted more frequently than others and that teachers will be able to respond more quickly to some requests than others.

- Share your own information about your child with teachers. Let them know, for example, what activities your child is involved in after school. Tell teachers about any specific behaviors or interests you have observed that seem to affect your child's learning and growth. You might also want to share relevant medical or psychological information that could impact your child's classroom performance.

- Talk with the teacher about how to use your child's data to set short- and long-term learning goals. Work with the teacher to co-create an action plan outlining what roles you, the teacher, and your child should play in achieving these goals. Ask the teacher for activities or resources to support your child's learning goals. Be sure to ask about the best way to use these resources.

- Think about bringing your child with you to meetings with teachers and other school staff, such as parent–teacher conferences, if the school allows this. Letting students play an active role in discussions about their progress can help foster their sense of ownership over their learning and enhance their motivation to succeed.

Engaging With Your Child

- Talk with your child on a regular basis about data related to his or her school progress. Demonstrate your support in a nonjudgmental manner, even if data show that your child is experiencing challenges in certain areas. Doing this shows your child that you want to be a supportive learning partner rather than just a "monitor" of grades and other data.

- Stress the importance of "sticking with it" if the data show areas needing improvement. To help your child persist when challenges arise, work with him or her to identify resources to overcome difficulties. This will help motivate your child to succeed.

Click here for examples of effective data-sharing practices.

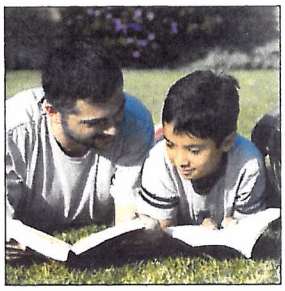
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As a parent or other family member, you can support your child's learning in a number of ways. You can provide teachers with information about your child's interests and challenges, and you can talk with teachers about data related to your child's academic progress. These conversations can help you and your child's teacher co-create action steps to help promote your child's learning in the home, school, and community.

Preparing to Communicate With Teachers



- Get to know the staff at your child's school. Attending orientations and open houses is a great way to meet staff and understand the different roles that teachers, support staff, and other people play in supporting your child's learning. Obtain contact information for relevant school staff so you know how to reach them if you ever have questions or concerns.
- Give your child a voice in the data-sharing process. Ask your child to describe his or her own strengths, challenges, and interests. Share this information with teachers when you meet with them. This information helps teachers individualize action plans to help your child achieve success.



- Ask your child to see samples of his or her class work, such as graded math homework or spelling tests. Looking over this work can help you develop specific questions for teachers about how to build on areas of strength or find support services to address areas of concern.
- Find out if your child's school uses an online parent portal to provide access to student data. If you do not have a computer at home, find out if there are computers you can use in the school, the public library, or other community locations. If needed, ask for help with setting up an account and logging in to see your child's data. Find out whom you should contact if you have questions or need technical support using the portal.



- Ask about any special features of your school's parent portal that can provide you with detailed data about your child's progress beyond his or her class average. Ask, for example, if you can see information on individual homework, quiz, and test scores to identify patterns in your child's performance, or if there is a section in the portal where teachers post comments about class participation or collaborative group work.
- Strike a balance between monitoring data and allowing your child space to make progress at his or her own pace. Avoid constantly checking online portals, also known as "e-hovering."