

Title I Calendar *Connecting Home and School*

Parent-Teacher Conferences

“According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, attendance for parent-teacher conferences falls dramatically through the grade levels – from 89% in Grades K-2 to 57% in high school.”

What is the purpose of a Parent-Teacher Conference? It's a great time to.....

- Meet and greet your child's teacher
- Learn about school and homework policies
- Discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses
- Bring up issues regarding social skills
- Exchange helpful information
- Share expectations regarding your child
- Discuss any family information that may impact your child's learning

Before the Conference talk with your child for a few minutes to help you to be better prepared...

- Ask what he would like you to talk about with his teacher(s)
- What things/subjects does he like? Dislike? Why?
- Review your child's work, reports
- Prepare a list of questions, concerns

During the Conference.....

- Keep an open mind; be positive and listen to the teachers – remember that they want what's best for your child
- Focus on how well your child is doing in school
- If you don't understand any terms that may be new to you, ask the teacher to explain
- Talk about how your child learns best (remember you are their first teacher)
- Ask about any specialists you should talk to
- Summarize the conversation; remember to take notes if needed
- If necessary, make a plan to meet again

After the Conference.....

- If a plan was created, follow up; stay in touch
- Contact the teacher if you still have questions or need clarification on what was discussed
- Talk to your child to share what you learned, remember to praise him
- Check your child's classwork and homework
- Think about how you can be involved in your child's learning

Some question to ask.....

- Is my child performing at grade level? Is my child doing his best?
- What do these assessments really mean?
- How is my child doing socially? Emotionally?
- Does my child need extra help in any area? What can we do to provide that extra help?
- What can I do at home to help my child?
- How can I contact you?

Sources: Parent-Teacher Conference Tip Sheets (Harvard Family Research Project, October 2010; Quick Tips, The Parent Institute “Get Ready for the Parent-Teacher Conference”; National Association for the Education of Young Children “Family Engagement Diverse Families”; Care.com “20 Questions to Ask During a Parent-Teacher Conference”