

Having an Effective Parent-Teacher Conference

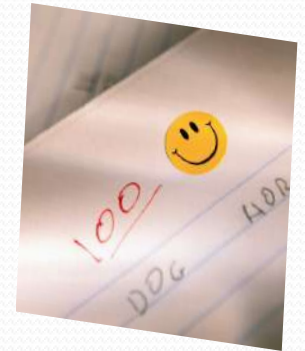
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What happens when families are involved?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN FAMILIES

- Students achieve higher grades and score higher on tests.
- Homework completion increases.
- Students' behavior improves.
- Students' attitudes about school improve.
- The chances of a student graduating high school and enrolling in college increases.



There are factors that make it difficult to become involved...

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- Language differences
- Cultural Differences
- Lack of understanding of role in the education process
- Difficulty physically accessing their child's school
- Time constraints

Talking Points

- I Before the Conference
- II During the Conference
- III After the Conference



Goal

- As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. You and your child's school have something in common: You both want your child to learn and do well.

#1 The Planning Process- Before

- Gather Information- Ideally, you'll start observing your child's learning patterns during the first few weeks of the school year.

The Planning Process

- 1. Ask the teacher for weekly content topics.
- 2. How will the work be evaluated?
- 3. Request a copy of the exam schedule.
- 4. Listen to your child- If your child is struggling in school, try to find out what's at the root of the problem.
- 5. Look for patterns in your child's school work.

#2 During the Conference

- Be clear and specific about your expectations regarding academic success.
- Establish a rapport with the teacher
- Try not to get defensive
- Take a notepad and pen
- Question

About Your Child

Make it personal by sharing specific information such as:

- Strengths
- Talents
- Area(s) in which he or she may struggle
- Other family events (divorce, death, new baby)

Role Play

- 1st- Stand up and shake hands
- 2nd- Smile and introduce yourself
- 3rd- Share two strengths about your child

#2 During the Conference

- Leave with an action plan- find out the best way to follow-up with the teacher(s)
- Do you have an email address?
- How can I support learning at home?
- Review your notes before leaving
- Request another meeting(if needed)



#3 After the Conference

- Sit down with your child the same day to discuss what occurred.



- Point out your child's strengths along with struggles and follow up with the teacher.

Parent Power

- My family's plan is to_____.
- I will incorporate_____ from this training at home.
- I plan to communicate with the teacher _____ times this school year.
- I will ask questions regarding_____.

Final Thought

- “Closing the loop” with your child will assure them that you, the school and he/she are on the same team!