

STAYING CONNECTED in



When communicating with parents, consider your remarks in relation to the three categories that influence how parents participate. For example, are you communicating about:

- Classroom learning activities.
- The child's accomplishments?
- How the parents can help at home with their child's learning.
- Inform families of the materials, skills their child is learning that week. Consider having a list of science vocabulary words, math words, reading skills and how they can have conversations about what their child is learning in class. This is a fun way of providing conversation starters, plus it allows the child to teach or tell the family of what they are learning in school.

Update Your Communications with Families for Back to School

Send a letter to families at the start of each month. Inform families of highlights of the month. Reassuring them that their child is safe and invite families in to share their knowledge and skills. A sample letter to families from the principal. <https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/welcome-students-to-school/>

Parents Can Build the Habit of Good Attendance

Parents want their children to do well in school, but many don't fully understand the connection between chronic absence and a student's academic achievement. Hand out these flyers to help build the habit of attendance!

Download many of these handouts translated into Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog and Vietnamese

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/handouts-for-families/>

Sometimes, as a new teacher, it's difficult to make the first call to a parent or guardian. Preparing for the call will make it easier. Before making a call, write down the reasons for the call. One reason can be simply to introduce yourself to the parent or guardian.

Here are several guidelines you can use as you prepare:

- Introduce yourself
- Tell the parents what their child is studying
- Invite the parents to an open house and/or other school functions
- Comment on their child's progress
- Inform them of their child's achievements (e.g., "Student of the Week")
- Inform them of their child's strengths or share an anecdote

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/building-parent-teacher-relationships>

Send home a reading book with students and ask families to read the book together and then write up a review/summary. Ask that it not be more than an index card. When the book and review come back to class, display the book and the summary together so other students can read the review to see if they would like to read this book. You could also put the review/summary in your newsletters.