

TIPS FOR PARENTS

HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE

BEFORE THE CONFERENCE



Think about questions that you may want to ask the teacher, and bring a list.

Here are some examples of questions that you may want to ask:

- ✓ How is my student doing in class?in reading?...in math?
- ✓ Is my child working up to his/her potential?
- ✓ Are there any behavior issues?
- ✓ What can I do at home to help my student become more successful at school?
- ✓ Does my child need help in a special area?
- ✓ Does my child have good work habits?
- ✓ Is work finished on time?
- ✓ Is time managed efficiently?
- ✓ Does my student use creative thinking and problem solving skills?
- ✓ How does my child react to problem solving skills?
- ✓ How does my child react to trying something new?
- ✓ What is his/her reaction to making mistakes?



Here are some questions to ask your child prior to the conference:

- ✓ What do you think the teacher will say?
- ✓ What do you want me to ask your teacher?
- ✓ What do you want me to tell your teacher?
- ✓ What is your favorite/least favorite thing about school?



Make arrangements with the classroom teacher if you would like to see other teachers. (ex. EIP, Title I, Venture)



Think about information you want to give the teacher. Here is some information that you may want to share with the teacher:

- ✓ Circumstances at home that may affect school work (ex. divorce, birth of sibling, moving, etc.)
- ✓ Your student's favorite subject.
- ✓ Your student's strengths and weaknesses.
- ✓ Anything that has happened lately that may make a difference in your student's behavior or performance at school.
- ✓ The responsibilities that your student has at home.

DURING THE CONFERENCE

- ✓ Ask to see some work samples.
- ✓ If there is something you do not understand, ask the teacher.
- ✓ If you make a decision or plan of action, make sure both you and the teacher have the same expectations.
- ✓ Take notes.
- ✓ Ask the teacher for specific types of things that you can do to help your child.
- ✓ Remember, you and the teacher have the same goal, and that's to help your child to succeed.

AFTER THE CONFERENCE

- ✓ Discuss the conference with your child.
- ✓ Stress the positive things you and the teacher discussed.
- ✓ Discuss any improvement needed.
- ✓ Help your child to set goals and make a plan.
- ✓ Communicate progress with the teacher via notes, phone calls, visits to the school, etc.
- ✓ Keep in touch with the teacher.
- ✓ Please realize how much the teacher appreciates you coming to the conference!

