

Tips for a Successful Parent-Teacher Conference

General Hints

Parent-teacher conferences are an excellent opportunity to find out how your child is adjusting to the new school year and to get to know her teachers. Here are some general hints on how to have a successful conference:

- Ask your child if there is anything that he would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- Jot down everything that you want to talk about at the conference. (See Helpful Questions, below.)
- Arrive promptly or a few minutes early.
- Begin with positive comments about the teacher or classroom.
- Avoid lengthy discussions of topics that are not related to the purpose of the conference.
- Be open to suggestions from the teacher.
- Keep your emotions under control.
- Take notes about what has been discussed and share them with your child.
- Express appreciation for the conference.
- Do not stay beyond your allotted time.

Helpful Questions

In order to help your kids have a successful school year, you need to know what will be expected of them academically from now until June. You can find out by asking some questions. Take this list with you to your next parent-teacher conference.

1. What basic skills will my child be expected to master this year?

What can I do at home with my child to help them achieve success in reading?
What can I do at home with my child to help him/her achieve success in math?

2. What can I do to stay more involved in my child's academic progress?

What can I do at home to complement what is happening in the classroom?
Is there a way I know on a daily basis what homework has been assigned?

3. Is there anything I should know about my child's behavior in class?

How has he/she adjusted socially to the new class?