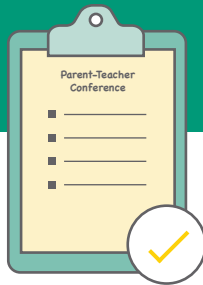


Tips for Families: Parent-Teacher Conferences



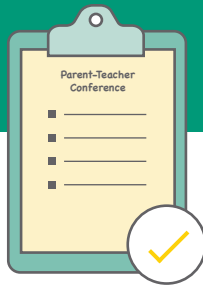
When families partner with their child's teachers, children are often more successful. Ask these questions at Parent-Teacher Conferences to help build that partnership. Time is limited, so pick 2-3 questions that are most important to you.

- How does my child learn? What are my child's strengths?
- Is my child meeting current grade level expectations? (*Ask about test & assessment scores.*)
- Are there areas where my child is struggling?
- Are there expectations for classroom participation? Is my child meeting them?
- Are there ways we can help at home with learning?
- What is the best way and time to communicate with you?

Additional topics you can discuss with the teacher:

- Your child's use of technology to do their schoolwork
- Skills that your child can work on during the summer
- Community programs to support learning, including: afterschool programs, summer camp, or tutoring and mentoring programs

Tips for School Staff: Parent-Teacher Conferences



Here are some tips to promote partnerships between families and schools. Share information with families about the importance of the conference and what they will gain. Use at least two tips at your next Parent-Teacher Conference.

- Ask families open-ended questions to gain their input, for example:
 - Tell me what is working or is not working for your child?
 - Tell me your concerns about your child's education?
- Take time to learn about families' perspectives and expectations for their student
- Check for understanding
- Avoid jargon or technical terms; be willing to fully explain data
- Explore your own cultural beliefs and biases
- Learn about your students' cultures and communities (i.e., ask how to pronounce their names)
- Show that you know their child; provide specific information about the child
- Share simple ways that the family can help with learning at home