



Parent/Teacher Conferences - Talking Points

How can the Parent/Teacher Conference time be most effective for student achievement?
Here are some guidelines for talking with your child's teacher about your child's progress.

1. Schedule a time that you can talk with your child's teacher. Select a time that you will not be rushed. You will want to be free to talk honestly with the teacher. During the conference, the teacher will share strengths and weaknesses in reading, math, science, social studies, classwork, homework, and student behavior.

2. Be prepared to ask specific questions concerning your child's progress. For example:

- *How much time should my child spend on reading and math each evening?*
- *How much time should he be spending on homework?*
- *What can I do to help my child with spelling?*
- *Should I be teaching my child how to write in cursive?*
- *What can I do to get my child to go to bed early?*

3. Be prepared to share information about your child's behaviors at home that may affect his progress at school. Your child's teacher needs to know about eating and sleeping habits that may affect your child's attention in school. If there are family issues that impact your child's progress, feel free to share these with the teacher.

4. Let the teacher know about any concerns you may have about your child. If your child is coming home from school with concerns about the school day, share these with the teacher. She will address these concerns professionally.

5. Ask the teacher for examples of how you can help your child at home. For example:

- *Show me how to do the math problems.*
- *Show me how to work on spelling, handwriting or reading.*

The purpose of the parent/teacher conference time is to improve student achievement. We are all working together to help all children do their best to achieve. Teacher and parents can't accomplish this goal alone. Through collaboration and communication, parents and teachers can make a difference in providing the best education possible for our children.

