

# Conferencing Between Parents and Teachers

## Teacher's point of view:

- It should help the teacher to know the child's parent(s).
- It should help the teacher understand where the parents are in terms of expectations of both the school and the child.
- It should help the teacher get another point of view on the child's strengths and weaknesses.
- It should enable more individualized instruction.
- It should allow the teacher to solicit help and support from the parents.

## Parent(s)' point of view:

- It should help parents get to know the child's teacher.
- It should inform the parents about the school and curriculum.
- It should provide an opportunity to discuss the student's strengths and weaknesses.
- It should provide an opportunity to understand the child's progress as an individual and as a class member.
- It should allow time for discussion of any disability issues.
- It should allow time for discussion of strategies, accommodations or modifications.

## What teachers generally want to cover:

- The child's ability to do schoolwork.
- The child's current level in reading, writing, spelling and math. And to share samples of work.
- The child's special interests and abilities.
- Materials used.
- Child's social skills in groups, in class and outside.
- How the child feels about himself.
- Standardized test results.
- The child's ability to use time effectively.
- The child's ability and habits in completing assignments.
- The child's acceptance of constructive criticism.
- Homework policy and/or problems.

## Parents might want to ask questions about:

- Grading policy.
- Daily schedule.
- Discipline policy.
- Classroom grouping of students.
- Extracurricular activities.
- School services in counseling, health, safety, special education.

## Parents might want to share with the teacher:

- Special health needs or problems.

- Child's feelings about school.
- Outside interests or hobbies.
- Relationships with family members.
- Important events r experiences – such as a death in the family, best friend moving away, very ill relative – that might affect your child's learning.
- How special needs manifest themselves in the student.

**After the conference:**

- Both the teacher and parents should have a better understanding of the child in relationship to school and home experiences.
- Parents need to discuss strategies or changes in order to help the child do his best.
- Both parents and teachers discuss with the child, on his or her level, the positive points of the conference.

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*Information source - Parent Reference and Resource Kit from the Federation of Invisible Disabilities. Family Resource Centre*