

Tips for parents

Setting the foundation for student achievement

Helping the child together



Parent-Teacher Conferences

The parent-teacher conference is an important element in establishing a partnership with your child's teacher. Nothing beats a face-to-face meeting to discuss your child's progress and needs.

The conference is a chance for parents to ask questions and tell teachers what they need to know to understand their children better. It's also an opportunity for the teacher to explain the curriculum and to use children's own work to demonstrate their progress.

Because conferences are so important, it pays for parents to come prepared. Try to arrange a time when you and your spouse or another family member can

be at the conference together. Ask your children ahead of time if there is anything they would like you to discuss with the teacher. Ask your children what they like and dislike about school. Review any work your children have brought home. Jot down questions you want to ask the teacher; then ask the most important questions first in case you're pressed for time.

When you return home, your child will be curious about the conference. Share the details of the conference. Praise strengths before discussing any changes or new plans. Let children know that they have your support.

Some questions you may want to ask:

- How well does my child get along with classmates?
- What are my child's best and worst subjects? How can I help my child improve?
- Does my child complete assignments regularly?
- Does my child willingly participate in class activities?
- Does my child follow directions?
- What tests has my child had or will my child have? What do the scores indicate? How does my child handle taking tests?
- Does my child need help in any academic area or need to be referred to school specialists?



Brought to you by the Missouri State Teachers Association
and the Missouri Press Association