



Family Values

Connecting with Your Child's Teacher

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Connecting with your child's teacher is one of the most useful things you can do for your son or daughter. Here's why:

- Children feel more relaxed when they see that you and their teacher know each other.
- Teachers can do a better job when you share information about your child.
- You can give encouragement at home when you know what your child is doing at school.
- If a problem occurs, it's easier to talk it over if you are already acquainted.

Whether it is hard or easy, getting to know your child's teacher is important. Being able to talk with him or her will make a difference all year long – for you, for the teacher, and most of all for your child. Here are some ways to begin building a good relationship:

1. Whenever you see your child's teacher be sure to greet him or her. Smiling and saying hello is more than a courtesy. It establishes you as a friendly person.
2. Since teachers have many new names and faces to learn at the start of each year, help them out. Tactfully mention your name the first few times you meet. If your last name is not the same as your child's, be sure to identify whose mom or dad you are.
3. If your school has a parent's organization, join it.

4. If you can't see your child's teacher regularly, rely on occasional short notes. A few lines sent to school can make a big difference in your child's day – and in building a sense of teamwork.
5. Every once in a while send a thank you note. Teachers and caregivers are people who work hard. Your support means a great deal.
6. Ask what kind of parent involvement is welcomed at your school and then volunteer your time.
7. Attend any open house, parent meeting or program that the school invites you to, even when you are tired and it's hard to get a sitter.
8. Every conversation together doesn't have to be about your child. Talking about ordinary things can help you both feel at ease.

Adapted from Metro Child Care Resource and Referral

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