

Parent-Teacher Conference Kit

1) My child and the teacher don't get along.

Helpful questions to ask:

1. Is my child behaving appropriately in the classroom?
2. Are you aware that my child is finding it difficult to work with you?
3. What suggestions do you have about ways my child could improve his relationship with you?
4. Do you have any ideas about how you might get along better with my child?
5. Do you feel that a transfer to another class would be in the best interest of my child?

2) The teacher and I don't get along.

Helpful questions to ask:

1. What do you think each of us can do so we will be able to work together smoothly this year?
2. Can we avoid involving my child in our differences?
3. Can we find some areas of agreement on how to help my child succeed in school?
4. Would you please give me your views on our areas of disagreement?
5. May I tell you why I don't agree with your views on _____?

3) My child is struggling academically.

Helpful questions to ask:

1. What is my child's ability level?
2. What exactly do you feel is the problem(s) that are causing my child to struggle in school this year?

3. What special help can the school offer my child to get him/her on track academically as quickly as possible?
4. Would it be appropriate to test my child for a learning disability?
5. How can I help my child do better in school?

4) My child is not challenged.

Helpful questions to ask:

1. How is my child doing academically?
2. Do you feel my child is breezing through class assignments with little or no effort?
3. Could you make assignments that are more challenging for my child?
4. Does the school have a formal program for gifted and talented children? Should my child be tested for it?
5. What can I do at home to enhance my child's educational experience?

5) My child is having a tough time socially.

Helpful questions to ask:

1. Does my child have friends at school?
2. Why do you feel my child is having problems socializing with other children?
3. Is there anything you can do in the classroom to help my child feel more comfortable around her peers?

4. Do you have any suggestions about what I could do at home to help my child get along better with her classmates?
5. Would it be a good idea for my child to talk to the school counselor or psychologist about ways to improve his socialization skills?

6) **My child is doing well. What is there to talk about?**

Helpful questions to ask:

1. What grade level is my child performing on in reading, math, social studies, and science?
2. How is my child doing in relation to the rest of the class?
3. What do you see as my child's strengths and weaknesses?
4. Could you tell me about my child's work ethic, relations with other children, behavior in class, and attitude toward learning?
5. Can you tell me what academic topics and skills will be emphasized this year in your classroom?