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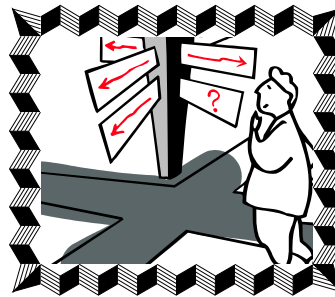
A Project of the Florida Partnership in Education

Tip Sheet

Meeting with my child's teacher

TIPS FROM A SOCIAL WORKER

As a school social worker and parent advocate, I have accompanied parents to many meetings. Based on those experiences I have developed some TIPS for parents.



Anxiety

Many times when parents are invited to meet with their children's teachers they assume that something is wrong.

However, this is not always the case. Many school administrators require that teachers conduct meetings with parents at least twice in a school year. So, nothing may be wrong. On the contrary, it is a great opportunity! School communication means that educators understand that no one knows your child better than you.

Isn't that GREAT?

LEARN MORE

Developed July 2010 by Teresa Estrada, M.S.W.

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Organization

Take time to organize your thoughts. It always helps to write down any questions/concerns you may have before the meeting. Remember, the focus of the meeting is YOUR child and it is OK to share “good things”...educators appreciate it. They call it “strengths” and educators consider children’s strengths a very useful tool.

OK, today is the day!

Now that you know that this is a great opportunity, and you have written down questions/concerns and strengths about your child, here are other suggestions:

- Take pride in your appearance.
- Be on time.
- Avoid distractions (e.g., electronic devices.)
- Be mindful of your body language.
- Avoid being defensive. Remember, the meeting is about helping your child succeed.
- Stay FOCUSED!

Keys to help you stay FOCUSED

Here are some key questions that could help you during the meeting with your child’s teacher:

- How is his/her behavior in the classroom?
Be prepared to share behaviors from home. If needed, offer to reinforce behavior expectations at home.
- Is my child meeting academic expectations? What are they?
Be prepared to share about home study habits.
- If needed, ask what can you do at home to support your child.
Be prepared to ask clarification questions, such as: How? How often? For how long?
- Remember: You and the child’s teacher both share a common interest...

YOUR CHILD’S EMOTIONAL AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS!

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