

Malden Public Schools Title I Parent Connection



Tips for a Successful Teacher Parent Conference

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Schools hold parent teacher conference throughout the year. At these meetings, it is often a time to ask about your child's grades and progress in schools. Here are some tips to help make this meeting with your child's teacher a success.

Write any questions you have down and bring the notes with you. Once the conversation gets started, you are likely to forget what you wanted to ask. Ask your child if they have any questions they'd like you to ask.

Share information about your child with their teacher. You know your child better than anyone. Bring work you'd like to discuss to the meeting from this year or last. Talk about what you see your child's strengths and weaknesses. Share your goals for your child.

Bring paper and pen to take notes. There will be a lot of information shared. Your notes will help you later remember what was discussed.

There may only be a short time the teacher has available to meet with you. It is important to arrive on time. Try to stay on topic and use the time to talk about your child. If you still have questions that haven't been answered and time is up, ask if you can email, call, or set up another appointment. If you can't make the specific evening that

was set up by your child's school, email or call your child's teacher to meet another day.

Start off with a positive comment. If there are specific problems you want to address, don't start off blaming. Describe to the teacher specifically the behaviors you see. Be ready to work with your child's teacher to find a solution.

Share with your child what was discussed.

Often, other specialists like the art, music, physical education, and library teachers are present at these conference evenings. Visit these teachers as well. They help give another perspective on how your child is doing in other areas of the school. Stop by and introduce yourself to the school principal as well.

Finally, make sure to thank the teacher for their time. Send a note or email expressing your gratitude.



*By Margaret Adams, Director of
Language and Literacy*

