

PREPARING FOR A PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEW ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S LITERACY CLASSWORK

Reasons for a parent-teacher interview:

The reason for a parent-teacher interview is to exchange information that will help your child's school career to be happy, enjoyable and successful. Just by attending the interview, you are off to a great start. It's a chance to develop a line of communication.

It is an opportunity to meet the teacher and learn what kind of person your child is spending time with. It can give you comfort knowing that the teacher is compassionate and competent.

Before you go, gather information to prepare for the interview:

It will be a better meeting if you are aware of how your child feels about the class, the teacher and the school. Firstly, what type of interview will it be? Will it be just you and the teacher or will it be three-way with your child present as well?



Be ready for the interview

Step 1:

- Talk to your child to find out if there are things to be discussed with the teacher.
- What subjects does your child prefer or dislike?
- Take a close look at the report and think about the comments and the aspects that were assessed.
- Is he/she happy about his/her progress?
- Was he/she surprised by any comments on the report?
- Does he/she feel the report is fair?
- Ask your child to predict what the teacher is going to tell you.
- Then, ask what he/she would like you to discuss with the teacher.

Step 2:

- What goals can you set with your son/daughter?
- Is there anything he/she would like to see changed within himself/herself, with the teacher or within the classroom?



Create a list for quick reference

Make a list of the things you would like to talk about:

Let the teacher know about any major changes or challenges your child is facing at present. In our lives, there are many events that affect how our children cope in school, such as the death of a loved person, separation or divorce, a new baby, major involvement in a sport, activity or job.

Inform the teacher of your child's needs. Does he/she need a quiet environment to focus? Is your child a visual learner and prefers written information and diagrams or does your child achieve better when he or she talks through ideas aloud? Your insights may help the teacher meet your child's individual learning needs.

If your child has special needs, such as a learning disability, ensure that the teacher is aware of them and has a plan for meeting those needs.

Here are some ideas for questions to ask the teacher:

- What are your expectations for my child?
- How is my child doing compared to the whole class expectations?
- How is my child's participation and classwork being evaluated?
- What can I do at home to assist?
- Are there any activities in which I can participate that will help my child?
- What is my child's relationship with other students?
- Would you please tell me immediately if there are any problems at all?
- How much homework is given each night/week and how much time should my child be spending on it?

At the interview:

- Relax! If there has been a problem in the past, strive to keep the lines of communication open and friendly.
- Make notes! (All too often we go home and only remember about 10% of what we heard.)
- Take the report with you to refer to.



At home:

- Discuss the interview with your child.
- Ensure that you emphasise to your child all the positive remarks that were made.
- Feel free to contact the teacher or the Year Adviser (in high school) if you would like any follow-up.

What can I do at home?