



A WAY OF BEING WITH CHILDREN

The Power of Parent-Teacher Relationship

Tips to Promote Child Well-Being and Resilience

Both parents and teachers play a vital role in educating a child. Parents are children's first teacher as they teach children essential life and academic skills while providing love and support. The connection and communication between teachers and parents become very important in any school setting including early education settings. Young children are very attuned with their parents, teachers and caregivers and read their cues well. So, when their teacher and parent are connected and have a positive and strong relationship, children are more likely to feel safe in their relationships with their teachers and have more positive attitude towards their teacher, center and learning. Effective communication is essential for building school-family partnerships. It constitutes the foundation for all other forms of family involvement in education.



Communicating with Parents

- In-person communication
 - Drop off and pick-up, volunteer opportunities, open houses, parent-teacher conferences, and after-school events)
- Other forms of communications
 - Phone calls, texts, emails and newsletters

Things to Consider

- Effective communication is the key
- Parents are experts on their children
- Attitude towards parents & demonstrating acceptance for parents and their children are crucial
- Sensitivity to cultural differences is important
- Parents' stressors can play a role
- Empathy supports positive relationships



The Importance of Listening

- Listening is the foundation of effective communication
- Pay attention to your body language
- Use reflective listening
- Let parents finish before you speak
- Use open-ended questions
- Show empathy



Speaking to Parents



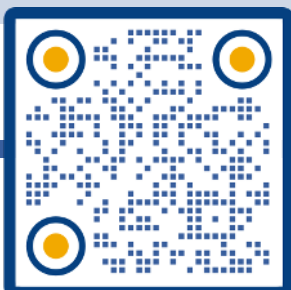
It is very important to consistently speak to parents in a clear, respectful and considerate way.

Here are some tips on speaking to parents:

- Speak in a clear, respectful and considerate way.
- Find and share the positives
- Be open and honest
- Evaluate how you feel
- Use “I statements”
- Avoid generalizations
- Ask for parents’ input
- Let parents make the decisions
- If you’re not sure about what to say, you don’t have to respond right away

Addressing Concerns

- Initiate the conversation before things get worse
- Follow up in a timely manner and regularly
- Prepare for it
- Schedule a time to meet
- Focus on observations
- Explain contributors of the behavior
- Check on parents’ perspective
- Own the issue
- Offer realistic strategies
- Repair the relationship if needed



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www.centerforchildcounseling.org/awayofbeing

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