

Seven Tips for Working with Your Child's School



1. Get to know the staff at your child's school.

Establish personal relationships and partnerships with the staff who connect with your child throughout the year, that way you will have an avenue for communication if issues arise. Keep in regular contact with your child's teacher as you're both on the team that's helping your child succeed.

2. Be a good listener.

Sometimes it's hard to have all the facts about a situation beforehand. At times our children's accounts of what has occurred aren't always accurate and complete. When you talk to the school be willing to listen to another perspective that you may not be aware of.

3. Keep an open mind

Teachers and administrators are committed professionals who want to do the best for your child. Keeping this at the forefront of your mind will help establish a collaborative atmosphere and open lines of communication.

4. Ask questions and don't be afraid to request a meeting

If you have concerns about your child's learning, behaviour, or something that has happened at school ask their teacher or principal about it and seek their advice. Request a meeting to talk about your concerns.

5. Think about your goals for the meeting in advance

Think about what you want to happen as a result of your meeting. Plan out what you're going to say and what you'd like to have happen. Plan to share your ideas and knowledge about your child as no one knows your child better than you.

6. Take notes

Feel free to take notes during a meeting, that way it will be easier to remember what was discussed and the different strategies and ideas suggested.

7. Don't give up

If after the meeting you still have concerns and nothing has changed you could ask to make an appointment with the school's guidance counsellor as they will be able to guide you in the right direction for further support and assistance.

