

How to get the most out of parent-teacher conferences

Some parents say that the parent-teacher conference is one of the most valuable things they attend all year. These one-on-one meetings are great for learning more about your child's strengths and weaknesses, and will give both you and the teacher a better idea about the year ahead.

To get the most from your meeting:

- Talk to your child. Ask her to tell you what she thinks are her easiest and most difficult subjects—and why. Does she have any questions she'd like you to ask the teacher?
- Make a list of things to tell the teacher. You know your child better than anyone else. Sharing some of this information will make it easier for the teacher to meet your child's needs.
- Write down your questions. Ask things such as:
 - Is my child in different groups for different subjects?
 - Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
 - Is my child working up to her ability?
 - How well does my child get along with others?
- Arrive on time. Teachers usually have many conferences scheduled during a single day. Arriving on time will allow you to take full advantage of the time the teacher has available.
- Create an action plan. Ask the teacher what you can do at home to reinforce what your child is learning at school. Try to get at least one or two specific suggestions.

Reprinted with permission from the October 2017 issue of Parents make the difference!® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2017 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc.