

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Five Questions to Ask



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1. What are my child's work habits?

Poor work habits can often go overlooked by parents. For that reason, it is important for you to inquire about your child's habits. For example, the child may turn in assignments late or fail to complete homework. Occasionally forgetting an assignment is not a cause for concern. On the other hand, if your child habitually ignores class work, actions should be taken to help them develop good work habits.

2. Does my child get along with classmates?

Adults who have difficulty getting along with others were likely children with the same problem. There are many reasons why personalities clash. The problem could be different temperaments, likes and dislikes, or beliefs. However, if your children consistently fights with different classmates and can't keep friends, they may require an attitude adjustment. Simple changes such as learning how to compromise, showing respect, and sharing can greatly improve our [relationships](#) with others.

3. Does my child participate in class discussions and other activities?

Because some children are very talkative and outgoing at home, parents assume these traits are displayed at school. Consequently, parents may not perceive signs of shyness or social anxiety. Lack of participation in classroom discussions, or isolation during recess or free play can indicate a social problem. While most young children eventually overcome severe shyness, this trait can carry into adulthood. Help you child by highlighting their strengths, and encourage them to speak up and express themselves.

4. What can I do to help?

Teachers have a lot of responsibilities. However, parents can make their job a little easier by cooperating with their child's teacher and helping their child at home. If a child is having trouble in a particular subject, parents may have to spend more time on homework or helping them prepare for a test. Additionally, hiring a tutor may be in the child's best interest. If a parent-teacher conference reveals a "less-than-perfect" side of your child, don't automatically conclude that the teacher is wrong. Rather, take an un-bias look at your child. If necessary, demand a behavior change.

5. How is my child's attendance?

It's a fact - children skip school. Many parents leave the house before their child, and return home after their child. Thus, it is possible for a child to remain home from school without their parent's permission or knowledge. Even though schools call the home and report absentees, it's not farfetched for a child to erase a message.