

**St. Louis Park Schools
ISD # 283**

Tips for a Parent-Teacher Conference

A parent-teacher conference is an opportunity for both you and your child's teacher to get a better perspective on your child's educational and emotional growth. It's a time to build bridges. Meet your child's conferences by doing your "homework" in advance. Here are some tips and a checklist that will help you prepare for meeting your child's teacher.

Before You Go

- * Find out how your child feels about school. Ask about your child's favorite and least favorite subjects.
- * Make a list of your child's special interests and hobbies. This personal information will help the teacher better understand your child.
- * Consider telling the teacher about any family problems that might affect your child's behavior and academic performance.

During The Conference

- * If you don't understand an educational term, such as curriculum, phonics, or reading group, don't hesitate to ask for definitions.
- * Ask about your child's homework assignments. Find out what role you can take in the homework process.
- * Ask how your child is adjusting socially in the classroom. Does he/she have friends at school? What are your child's social strengths and weaknesses?
- * If your child has problems socially or academically, discuss how to resolve them. Come up with a plan of action that outlines goals for you, your child, and the teacher. Make sure these goals are realistic. Set a time for a follow-up discussion.

After the Meeting

- * Follow up on all Suggestions your child's teacher makes.
- * Keep track of your child's progress in school. Regularly review classwork, homework, and tests.
- * Keep in touch with your child's teacher. Discuss problems or changes in situations that come up during the year. Don't wait for a formal conference to express your concerns.

Checklist - Questions I want to ask my child's teacher

- √ How is my child doing in all of his/her subjects?
- √ What are my child's strengths? In what subject does my child need help?
- √ Does my child express him/herself creatively? Does he/she enjoy drawing, painting, dance and music?
- √ Do I need to meet with any other of my child's teachers?
- √ How is my child's attention span? Does my child pay attention in class?
- √ How can I help my child do better in school? Can I offer more help at home? What specific things can I do?
- √ Who are my child's friends? Are there children in the class who he/she has difficulty relating to? What happens during free play?