

**Communicating With Parents:
A Positive Approach to Parental Involvement
SCACS Convention 2017**

GOALS OF COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS

- ▶ Psalm 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."
- ▶ To create a _____ effort to train the child
- ▶ To reach the parents spiritually

UNDERSTANDING A PARENT'S MINDSET

- ▶ Genesis 25:28 "And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob."
- ▶ They are _____
- ▶ They are focused on their child only
- ▶ Parents know the child in a different context

SEVEN THINGS PARENTS WISH TEACHERS KNEW

- ▶ They fear that their child will not _____ and will embarrass them.
- ▶ The teachers will not communicate clearly, causing their child to miss an assignment.
- ▶ The teacher may not like their child.
- ▶ The teacher does not value _____ input.
- ▶ They are liable to act somewhat irrational if their child's well-being is at stake.
- ▶ It is hard to trust others with their most precious commodity.
- ▶ A _____ word about their child means more than they could possibly express.

TEACHER ATTRIBUTES THAT PROMOTE PARTNERSHIP

- ▶ Warmth
- ▶ Openness
- ▶ _____
- ▶ Flexibility
- ▶ Reliability
- ▶ Accessibility
- ▶ _____

ROADBLOCKS TO EFFECTIVE PARENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS

- ▶ Amos 3:3 “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”
- ▶ Only partially support the parents’ wishes for the child.
- ▶ Teacher doesn’t support school’s programs with the parents.
- ▶ Be sensitive to parents’ _____ and _____.

ROADBLOCKS TO EFFECTIVE PARENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS

- ▶ Discuss one parent in front of other parents.
- ▶ Allow yourself to get pulled into a marital matter.
- ▶ Tell parents you don’t know something without helping them to find an answer.

HOW TO FOSTER GOOD PARENT RELATIONSHIPS

- ▶ Let parents know that you care and they can contact you with concerns.
- ▶ Practice an _____ - _____ policy.
- ▶ Involve parents in classroom activities.
- ▶ Document conversations.
- ▶ Have positive _____ conversation.

- ▶ Be non-defensive.
- ▶ Be alert to family needs.
- ▶ Separate personal matters from school.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE PREPARATION

- ▶ Pray for _____ and understanding.
- ▶ Prepare with a positive attitude.
- ▶ Determine the place, time, and who will be present.
 - Relaxed but controlled setting
 - 30-45 minutes
 - Both parents if possible
- ▶ Evaluate the student's cumulative file.
 - Achievement test, Intelligence test, Previous teacher reports, Discipline reports, Prior conferences, Attendance records, Report card grades
- ▶ Determine the child's _____ to learn.
 - Compare ability with achievement
 - Compare SAT scores for the past three years
 - Explain to parents how to interpret scores
- ▶ Identify positive and negative learning patterns.
 - Evaluate past history to help explain present behavior and learning
 - Why does a child behave in a certain manner?
 - Boredom, physical problems, poor home environment, or low self-esteem
- ▶ Design remedial, supplemental, or enrichment work.
 - Teacher may need to _____ teaching methods
 - Teacher may need to prepare additional learning activities
 - Prepare suggestions of what parents can do
- ▶ Investigate the student's home and church life.

- Anticipate questioning from parents.
- Visit with teachers who have previously taught the student.
- Discuss the _____ and _____ with the administrator.
- Put your plan in writing.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE RULES TO FOLLOW

- Approach conference prayerfully.
- Start with a _____; even the worst child has some good features.
- Establish joint responsibility for the student.
- Avoid educational double talk; don't talk down to the parent but be truthful and honest.
- Get down to business; don't waste time.
- Be _____. Relax. Let the parent feel that this time is your highest priority.
- Encourage the parent to give information about the child.
- Be open-minded. Be willing to change your opinion.
- Talk about differences in children but do not compare one child with another.
- Talk about _____ and _____.
- Do not criticize past teachers.
- Have student's portfolios ready for observation.
- Let the parents know what you will do in the classroom to address the issue.
- Ask parent if they would be willing to help.

- ▶ Suggest _____ steps that parents can take that will help their child be successful.
- ▶ Provide instructional materials to aid parents in helping their child at home.
- ▶ Establish a follow-up plan.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- ▶ Send a note home _____ parents for coming and _____ them of the plan that was agreed upon.
- ▶ Let parents know how things are going after the first week.
- ▶ Let the child know that you enjoyed talking to his/her parents. If there is a plan of action, tell the child.