

BUILDING FAMILY-TEACHER PARTNERSHIPS

Best Practices for Families Using TalkingPoints

Effective communication with your child's teachers is key to supporting their education and fostering a positive learning environment. Here are five best practices, complete with examples, to help you engage meaningfully and constructively with your child's educators.

Be Proactive

Reach out to your child's teachers early in the school year to introduce yourself and establish a line of communication. Let them know that you are committed to supporting your child's education. For example, you might start a message with: "Hello [Teacher's Name], I am [Your Name], [Student's Name]'s parent. I wanted to introduce myself and express my eagerness to support [Student's Name] throughout the school year."

Stay Positive and Respectful

Maintain a positive tone and be respectful in all your communications. A good relationship with teachers is built on mutual respect and understanding. For example, you could start a message with: "Thank you for all your hard work with [Student's Name]. I appreciate everything you do to support their learning."

Be Specific

When you have questions or concerns, be specific about the issues. Providing detailed information helps teachers understand and address your concerns more effectively. For instance, you could say: "I noticed that [Student's Name] has been struggling with their math homework recently. Could you provide some additional resources or suggest ways we can help them improve at home?"

Share Important Information

Keep teachers informed about any significant changes or events in your child's life that might affect their behavior or performance at school. This information helps teachers provide better support. You might start a message like: "I wanted to let you know that [Student's Name] is going through a big change at home, and it might affect their focus in class. Please keep an eye on them and let me know if you notice any issues."

Follow Up

After discussing a concern or issue with a teacher, follow up to see how things are progressing. This shows that you are engaged and helps ensure that any agreed-upon actions are being implemented. You could begin a follow-up message with: "Hello [Teacher's Name], I wanted to check in regarding [Student's Name]'s progress on the issue we discussed last week. Have you noticed any improvements or changes?"