

12 Questions to Ask at Your Parent-Teacher Conference

Here is a list of questions to ask your child's teacher. You might also want to ask your child if there is anything else that he or she would like you to discuss with the teacher.

1. What subjects and skills will my child be expected to master this year?
2. Is my child working to the best of his/her ability? How is progress measured?
3. How much time do you expect students to spend on homework assignments? Is homework graded for completion or for accuracy?
4. What type of learner is my child (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile)?
5. What does he/she need to work on and how can I help? Get specific feedback, such as "has difficulty combining sentences" or "has difficulty summarizing stories," as well as specific information about how you can help with any issues.
6. What standardized tests will be administered this year? And how much class time will be devoted to preparing students for them?
7. How do you evaluate students? Do tests, attendance and homework all count towards grades?
8. How can I support your teaching program at home? How can I monitor my child's completion of assignments on a daily basis?
9. How do you accommodate differences in learning? How do you differentiate lessons to meet the needs of all learners?
10. Are there any support programs to help children who need a little extra attention? When are you available if my child needs extra help?
11. What is your preferred method of communication with parents (e-mail, telephone, notes home, Web site, etc.)?
12. Does my child seem happy and engaged in school? Who are his/her friends? Is he/she showing good behavior with classmates and adults? (Get specific feedback.)