

# 5 Questions to Ask Your Child's New Teacher

## How can we support at home what you're doing in the classroom?

This sets the tone and tells the teacher that you know we're in this together. The best education for your child comes from a partnership between parent and teacher. Teachers appreciate parents who do their part, and parents appreciate teachers who consider them part of the learning team.

## What are your goals - not just academic - for your students for this school year?

Some teachers have goals to make students better problem solvers. Sometimes they want to teach children how to collaborate on projects. And sometimes they want to show students how to build a community inside the classroom. By asking this question, you will get some insight into their teaching style.

## What is the best way to contact you?

An increasingly important question, today parents can reach a teacher through notes, phone calls, e-mails or in person. Your child's teacher will probably have a preferred method. Some check e-mail several times a day, and some log on only once a week. Some teachers prefer phone calls after school, and some will allow you to call them at home in the evening. Finding out the preferred method of contact will keep the communication lines open and flowing.

## What would you like to know about my child that would help you as his or her teacher?

As a parent, you know your child better than anyone. The more a teacher knows a child, the better they will be at addressing the child's needs. Share with the teacher personality traits, strengths and weaknesses, as well as study habits. It's also good to share family situations that may affect their school performance, such as a divorce or a family member with an illness.

## What is your homework policy?

If you talk to parents with children in other classrooms, you'll learn that all homework is not created equal. Some teachers are notoriously known for large amounts of assignments, and some teachers rarely give any. Some have homework assignments due each day, while others prefer to have an entire week's homework handed in at the end of the week. When you find out your teacher's homework policy, be sure to understand the role you will play. Does the teacher want the parent to identify and offer help on wrong answers? Or does the teacher prefer that you just check to see if homework is completed, but let mistakes come in so they can be addressed in class?



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