



Communication

(between parent, child, and teacher)

Just when you see your child and his teacher the least, and have the least time to talk with them, you will be facing one of the most challenging adjustments during early childhood ...



Transition to Kindergarten

Communicating With Your Child...

will give you an opportunity to better understand his or her thoughts, fears, and expectations.

It also provides you with opportunities to address his or her concerns.

How to Communicate?

Be interested, attentive, encourage talking, extend conversation, listen patiently, and reflect their feelings.



What to Communicate?

Give your child permission to feel their feelings. "It's OK to feel (sad, angry, scared, excited).

Share similar situations from your life with your child and talk about your feelings.

Encourage problem solving on your child's part. "What can you do if...?"

Assure your child that you'll be there to help if needed, but encourage independence.

REMEMBER - If your child presents a school problem he cannot handle, check things out with his teacher.

Communicating With Your Child's Teacher...

builds a bridge between your home and the school, making it easier for your child to go back and forth between the two places.



It also lets your child know that you believe school is important.

How to Communicate?

To effectively communicate, you need to send messages to the teacher as well as receiving messages from the school.

Read newsletters/homenotes
(or have someone read them to you)
Attend parent-teacher conferences.

Telephone your child's teacher
Make sure teachers know how to
contact you

Write notes to the teacher
Drop off or pick-up in person when
possible

What to communicate?



? Ask Questions:

... about how your child is doing in school socially and academically. (What are his work habits? Is he too tired in the mornings?)

... about what you can work on with your child at home.



Give Information:

... about things going on in your child's life that may affect his or her behavior in school. (We are going on a special trip this weekend so Max may have difficulty Concentrating today.)

... about how your child is adjusting to school

For more information contact:



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Transition, Parent Tip Sheets, #13: Communication

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