



QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

Effective communication between parents and teachers can benefit students in several ways. It can help to:

- 1. Improve academic performance:** When parents and teachers collaborate, they can identify areas where a student may be struggling and work together to develop a plan to address those issues; doing so can lead to improved academic performance.
- 2. Promote positive behavior:** By working together, parents and teachers can reinforce positive behavior and promote a supportive and consistent environment for the student.
- 3. Build stronger relationships:** When parents and teachers communicate regularly, they can establish a relationship built on trust and mutual respect, which can positively impact the student's well-being and success.
- 4. Enhance student motivation:** When parents and teachers work together to set goals and expectations for the student, it can help to increase their motivation and commitment to learning.

Effective communication between parents and teachers is essential for creating a supportive and successful student learning environment.

There are some things that parents can do to prepare to get the most out of a classroom meeting:

- 1. Review your child's work:** Before the conference, review your child's work and grades to identify any areas where they may be struggling or excelling.
- 2. Prepare a list of questions:** Think about any questions you have for the teacher about your child's progress, behavior, or academic performance, and write them down to bring to the conference.
- 3. Share information about your child:** Be prepared to share information about your child's interests, hobbies, and personality with the teacher, as this can help them better understand your child as a whole person.
- 4. Listen actively:** During the conference, listen carefully to what the teacher says about your child's progress and be open to their suggestions for supporting your child's learning and development. (It is easy to become Parent-Bear quickly but remember that taking a second before reacting might be a good idea. Cody's tip: take notes and hear the whole story before jumping to defend. Please schedule a follow-up meeting to ensure you have all the facts before reacting too soon.)
- 5. Follow up:** After the conference, follow up with the teacher to discuss any additional questions or concerns you may have.

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QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW YOUR CHILD IS DOING ACADEMICALLY

What are some of my student's strengths?

What are some of my student's challenges?

How does my student perform in specific subjects (math, reading, science, history, etc.)?

How does my student do on homework assignments, quizzes, and tests?

How does my student do on in-class assignments and discussions?

Is my child at the right reading level for their age and grade?

What can I do at home to better support my student's academic success?

How do you promote independence and self-guided learning in the classroom?

What do you suggest I do at home if my student struggles with homework, a project, or studying?

What are the most prominent academic challenges for my student?

Do you foresee any additional academic or social challenges for my student?

Do you think my child should take a special education evaluation?

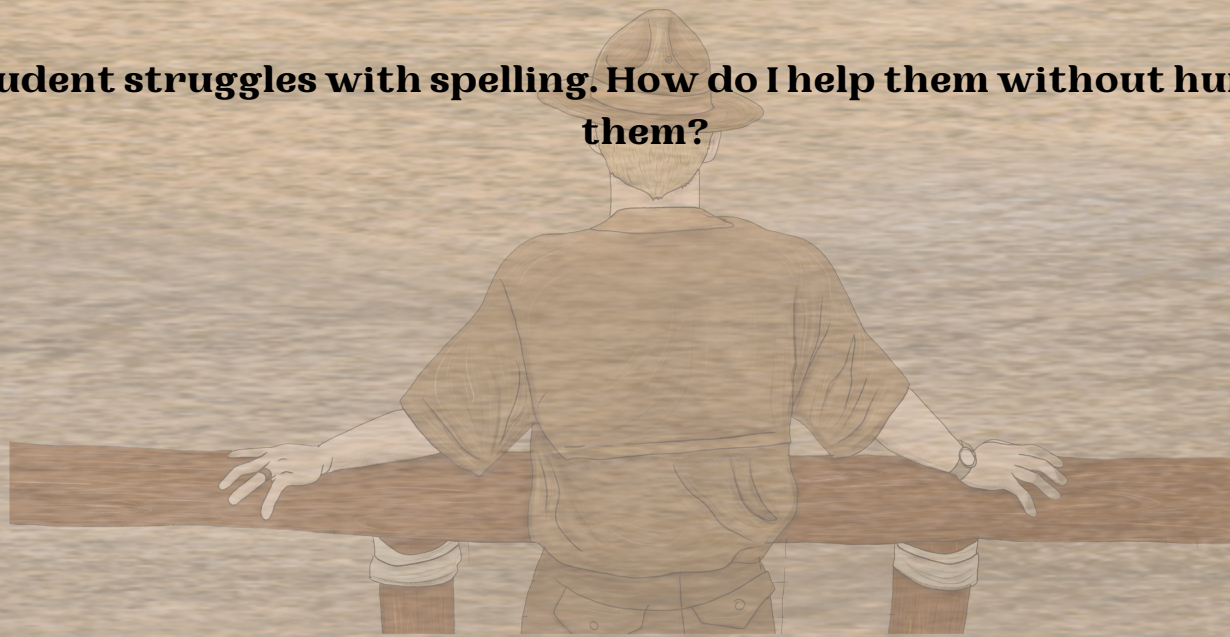
What resources do you or the school have to help my student better keep up with their peers academically?

Does my student respond better or worse to certain types of teaching?

Does my student respond better or worse to certain subjects?

What can I do to support literacy when my student is at home?

My student struggles with spelling. How do I help them without humiliating them?



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QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLASSROOM

What is the typical daily schedule for my student?

How often do you schedule quizzes or tests?

How often do you give homework?

How do you handle social challenges during class, recess, or lunchtime?

Name a top skill you hope children will walk away with this year. How can I help them develop at home?

What questions would you recommend I ask my child daily about what is happening at school or in your class?

What can we do at home to encourage growth?

How can I help my child be more organized with homework without completely taking over?

How can I be aware of any behavior issues at school?

What is your policy on late homework and make-up work? How does that influence grades?

How do you handle absences and missed tests or homework?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

What are some ways my student's 504 or IEP is being fleshed out in your classroom?

What modifications will you make for my student during standardized testing?

Can you suggest tools to use at home as I help my child be successful in your classroom?

Does this school have a resource teacher for gifted students?

How do you and your team of teachers utilize that teacher?

Can you describe your teaching style?

Does my student have to take standardized tests? When?

How do you prepare students for standardized tests?

How can I help prepare my student for standardized tests?

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By taking these steps, parents can help ensure they get the most out of parent-teacher conferences and better support their child's learning and development.

It can be hard to prepare a list of questions or even know what to ask when you have never been in a specific situation. Here are example questions you can use, modify, or hopefully spark other questions to ask your children's teachers the next time you sit down to talk.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND BEHAVIORAL LEARNING

How does my student do in social situations with peers?

How does my student act in social situations with authority figures?

How is my child's emotional health while in class?

Does my student like participating in class discussions and with their peers?

Does my student's attitude change in certain situations?

What is my student's overall attitude in class?

What challenges are you having with my student?

Do you see behaviors at school (good and bad) that you think I might not see at home?

How can I encourage age-appropriate accountability at home to support what you are doing in class?

Do you notice any difficulties my child is having socially at school?

What is one area we could encourage at home to improve my child's social skills?

What are you observing regarding my child's organizational skills?

How can I encourage them to be more organized without doing it for them?

I know grades don't tell the whole story. Is my student giving their best effort?

What have you observed, negative and positive, regarding my child's response to classroom behavior expectations?

Are they polite and respectful to teachers and students?

What behavior modifications can we make at home to reinforce expectations at school?

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CONTINUED

What can we do if my student isn't challenged enough in the classroom?

Does the school have a gifted program?

What testing must my student undergo to qualify for the gifted program?

What activities can we introduce to support my student's learning?

Are there opportunities for self-guided learning?

QUESTIONS ABOUT COMMUNICATION

What is the best way to contact you? Do you have a preferred method of contact?

Can I tell you more about my student?

Can I tell you more about what's going on at home?

How can I stay informed of school programs and my student's success?

What can I do to support you and make your job easier as we work as a team for my child's growth this year?

How can I best stay on top of what is happening at school? In the classroom?

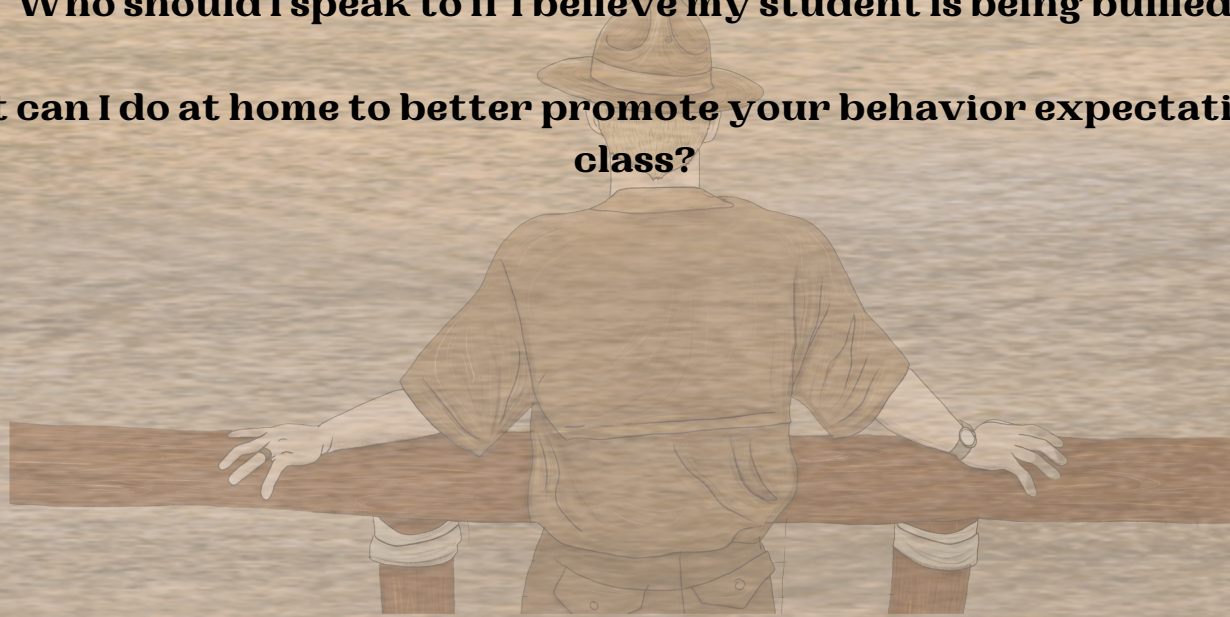
What do you suggest we do at home when my student gets "stuck" on homework?

What is your teaching style, and how can we be consistent with those methods at home?

How do you handle bullying and other harmful behavior in the classroom?

Who should I speak to if I believe my student is being bullied?

What can I do at home to better promote your behavior expectations for class?



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