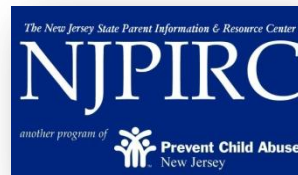


Twenty Tips to Build a Positive Parent-Teacher Relationship



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Go to Your Child's School

- Attend parent-teacher conferences and open house nights.
- Take part in school activities.
- Volunteer in your child's classroom or other area of the school. Share your talents: Attend a career day or teach your child's class a special skill you have.

Develop a Positive Relationship with School Staff

- Mutually set goals together with your child and his/her teacher.
- Talk positively about school with your child.
- Trust that the teacher cares about your child.
- Show up for appointments on time.
- Know that you are an equal partner.

Communicate Effectively

- Communicate with your child's teacher and other school staff member frequently.
- Share information with a teacher/counselor, that can explain what is affecting your child's behavior (such as a divorce or death in the family).
- Ask questions and listen to what the teacher/counselor has to say before coming up with assumptions.
- Bring a third person to listen to what both parties have to say and then ask them to provide a summary.
- Use positive communication techniques when talking to school staff (e.g. eye contact, patience, non-verbal responses).
- Aim to mutually understand and solve problems.
- Document your discussion, the teacher's comments and suggestions when having a parent-teacher conference.
- Read and respond to information sent home from school.

Be a Decision Maker

- Join a parent organization or advisory council.
- Attend school board meetings.
- Find out if your school has a parent involvement plan. Ask how you can give input to the development/annual review of the plan.
- Be an advocate for your child's need.