



Levels of Parent Communication

Note: There is a running debate in education whether or not to include students in meetings and conferences with parents. Some schools have a policy about this, but most schools leave it up to the teacher to decide. Both teachers and parents have very distinct views on this subject. Whether or not to include students in meetings and conferences comes down to personal philosophy. There is no right or wrong answer, but you need to consider all the variables before making a decision. For now, this discussion focuses on communication with parents where students are excluded. Further in this section the pros and cons of including students in conferences are compared, and strategies for teachers who wish to involve students in parent-teacher conferences are included.

Phone Calls, Meetings, and Conferences . . . Oh My!

Not every meeting with a parent will be formal. Sometimes you can solve a problem or answer a question through a note in the agenda or an email. At times, a simple phone call will suffice, while other times you will need to schedule a meeting to discuss a specific issue. Finally there are the term conferences and, in some cases, child study team meetings. These are the most formal meetings between parents and teachers.



Respond to parent concerns by the end of the 2nd day even if it's just to tell them you're aware of their concern and you are working on it.