



Goals

One of our rewarding responsibilities as parents and teachers, we believe, is to help children to find and explore the numerous abilities within them.

Therefore, it is of great importance for us to talk to children about their goals - not only our goals for them, but their goals for themselves. If we begin this journey when they're young, they'll learn to realize and utilize more and more of their abilities as they mature.

Learning about children's goals by talking to them is also key to helping us determine the related tools we need to make available as a means of helping children meet their goals.

Our philosophy is that if we are given the gift of children but do not strive to develop them to their fullest potential, then we're not getting the most out of them, they're not getting the most out of themselves, and the world, unfortunately, does not reap the full benefits that our children have come to offer!



Providenciales Primary School

PROVIDENCIALES PRIMARY SCHOOL



How to get the most out of your child's Parent/Teacher Conference.

'Parents' involvement in their children's education is widely considered to have substantial potential for benefiting children's development and academic performance, for improving schools, and for empowering parents'

(Henderson & Berla, 1994; Winters, 1993).





Before the conference

Talk with your child beforehand. Ask your child questions, such as:

- ✓ What do you like about school?
- ✓ What do you dislike about school?
- ✓ Is there anything to ask or tell the teacher?

Make a list of “what we’ve noticed at home and what our child has said about school.”

Prepare questions ahead of time. Knowing what you want to talk about will help the meeting go more smoothly.

If at all possible, both parents should be a part of the meeting. Find a babysitter for younger siblings. Staying focused on what you want to learn from your child’s teacher is easier without distractions, and more productive if attended by both parents.

During the conference

Show up and on time. This may seem obvious, but teachers have a limited amount of time and want to give quality attention to your meeting.

Ask questions about what your child is learning.

- ✓ What are my child’s strengths and weaknesses in class?
- ✓ Is my child at grade level with his/her reading, writing, math and science?
- ✓ What can I do at home to support what my child is learning in school?
- ✓ What expectations do you have for my child?

Have an open mind. It’s easy for parents to be protective of their children, but approaching a parent/teacher meeting with a defensive attitude helps no one. Be honest about your child, but don’t make excuses. Use this time to listen and ask questions. This is important information given to you by an adult who works with your child every day.

Identify and set achievable goals. These help develop a clear outline for improvement.

Teachers need to hear about the good things, about the things that they hope are working and that they invest so much time and energy into creating and making come alive.

If you run out of time but have more to talk about, ask for another meeting at a later date.

After the conference

Talk about the meeting with your child.

Approach your child with love and an open mind. Begin with good comments or praises from his/her teacher. Praise your child’s strengths. Encourage him/her that you want to help them work through any problems or frustrations. Listen without being confrontational.

Follow through at home any ideas and goals you’ve discussed and made with the teacher. Your objective is to help your child with any problems, whether learning, behavioral, or social. Don’t ignore what has been discussed or put it off to another time.

Remember to follow up. Keep the lines of communication open. Contact the teacher if improvement does not occur. But more importantly, contact the teacher if there is improvement, as this will encourage your child.

