

Parents – A Valuable Resource

Insight

- *When parents walk through the doors of the school house they see their past. Whereas, when children walk through the same doors they see the future and their teacher as the person who will lead them out successfully.*
- Larry Lezotte, Ed.D.

Parents

- Know child best
- Hear about child's teacher
- Remember own experiences
- Need guidance on issues
- May feel guilt over circumstances

Teachers

- Provide warmth, empathy, and respect
- Spend lots of time with child
- Hear about child's home
- Want answers
- Not authority on all subjects

Parent's Wish List for teachers

- Build child's self-esteem
- Get to know child's needs
- Communicate often with parents/family
- Regularly assign "needed" homework not busy work
- Set high academic standards
- Encourage parental participation
- Understand all children learn differently
- Treat all children fairly
- Use positive discipline
- Care about children

Teacher's Wish List for parents

- Be involved in child's education
- Provide resources at home
- Set good example
- Expect child's best at school
- Put academics first
- Support school rules
- Use pressure positively
- Call teacher about problems
- Assume parental responsibility
- Understand alcohol, tobacco, and excessive partying are problems as serious as drug abuse

Communication

- Contact
 - Phone calls
 - Newsletters
 - Encounters
 - Notes
- Scheduled Conferences

Communication builds bridges between school and home, helps in developing appropriate goals, develops a partnership between home and school.

What to do to help?

- Provide input in decision-making
- Use suggestion box
- Visit school
- Get to know your child's teacher
- Be involved, not intrusive
- Share unique insights about your child
- Offer to assist with projects
- Know and support classroom rules
- Speak respectfully of the teacher in front of your child

Keys to success for teachers and parents

- *Let your advance worrying become advance thinking and planning –*
Winston Churchill
- Have a sense of humor
- Be accepting
- Keep positive attitude
- Listen
- Watch body language
- Be sincere and respectful
- Reinforce others when necessary

- Keep lines of communication open
- Recognize your child's version is only one side of the story
- Don't over-react
- Respect the teacher's skills and knowledge
- Respect the parents' observations and knowledge of child
- Recognize the value of teamwork

The best formula for a child's success in school is a strong partnership between parents and teachers. Both have special skills and insights to share.