What To Ask During Parent-Teacher Conferences

Elementary School Edition

Academic Progress

1. How is my child progressing academically in core subjects (reading, writing, math)?

2. Are there specific areas where my child excels or struggles?

3. How is my child performing in comparison to grade-level standards?

4. How do you tailor instruction (SDI) to meet my child's unique learning needs? Can you provide examples of specific strategies or tools you use to support my child's learning?

5. How do you assess whether the specially designed instruction (SDI) is effective for my child?

6. Is there any training or resources that may be helpful for you in supporting my child in the classroom?

Social and Emotional Development

7. How is my child interacting with peers? Are there any social challenges?

8. What is my child's behavior like in class? Are there any concerns regarding classroom behavior?

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9. Does my child frequently leave the classroom for disciplinary reasons? If so, can you explain the circumstances?

10. How do you support my child's social-emotional development?

11. Does my child exhibit any signs of stress or anxiety? For example, do they often complain of stomach aches, frequently ask to go to the bathroom, or show reluctance to participate in class?

12. What specific actions can we take at home to support my child in building positive social skills?

13. Are there school programs or resources available to help address and teach about bullying, self-advocacy, and promote social-emotional learning?

IEP Implementation (if applicable)

14. Can you provide specific examples of how my child's IEP is being implemented in the classroom?

15. Are accommodations and modifications being provided as outlined in the IEP? If so, how are they being implemented?

16. What strategies do you use to ensure that my child understands the accommodations provided in their IEP, and how do you help them develop self-advocacy skills to utilize those accommodations effectively?

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Engagement and Participation

17. How engaged is my child during lessons? Are they participating actively in class discussions?

18. Are there specific activities or subjects where my child shows more enthusiasm or engagement?

19. What strategies do you use to encourage my child's participation in class activities, especially non-preferred activities?

Executive Functioning and Organization

20. Is my child organized? Are they keeping track of their materials and assignments?

21. Does my child have trouble starting tasks or following through with assignments?

22. What tools or resources do you recommend for helping my child with organization and task completion?

23. Are there signs of sensory overload or difficulty focusing during class activities?

Goals and Assessment

24. Are there opportunities for my child to participate in goal-setting in the classroom?

25. How can I support my child in setting goals at home to assist them with completing their work or homework?

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26. How will my child's progress be measured and reported throughout the school year?

27. If my child is not meeting expectations, how and when will I be notified by you?

Support and Resources

28. Are there any modifications or accommodations that have been effective in helping my child succeed?

29. What resources or programs are available within the school to support my child's learning?

30. How can I support my child's learning at home? Are there specific activities or resources you recommend?

Communication and Involvement

31. How can we maintain regular communication? What is your preferred method of contact (email, phone, etc.)?

32. Are there opportunities for parent involvement or workshops that I can attend to better support my child?

33. How frequently will we have follow-up meetings or check-ins to discuss my child's progress?

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Next Steps

34. How can we work together to ensure my child's continued success this school year?

35. What do you recommend we focus on this year before transitioning to middle school?

Conclusion

These questions serve as suggestions for parents to consider during parent-teacher conferences. While you may not be able to ask all of these questions within the limited time allotted for the meeting, it’s essential to prioritize your inquiries based on your child's most pressing needs. To save on paper and ink, you can print the Additional Questions list and write down your own questions in the order that you prioritize them, using our questions as inspiration. Being mindful of the schedule will help ensure a productive discussion. For any additional concerns or topics that require further discussion, consider following up with the teacher via email. Remember, staying in touch and sharing insights can make a difference in your child's education.

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Additional Questions

1. Question:

2. Question:

3. Question:

4. Question:

5. Question:

6. Question:

7. Question:

8. Question:

9. Question:

10. Question:

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