

Effective Communication with Teachers

Clear and respectful communication between families and teachers helps students succeed. When families and teachers work together, students get the support they need to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. By staying involved, asking questions, and working together, families can help create a strong support system for their children at school and home.

Why Good Communication Matters:

- Understand Your Child's Progress
- Solve Problems Early
- Support Student Success
- Build a Strong Relationship

Ways to Communicate Effectively:

1. **Know the Best Way to Reach the Teacher:** Some teachers prefer email, while others use apps like ClassDojo or Seesaw. Ask how they prefer to communicate.
2. **Reach Out Early:** If you have concerns, don't wait for a conference. Contact the teacher as soon as you notice a problem.
3. **Be Clear and Focused:** Instead of saying, "My child is struggling," say, "My child has trouble with reading comprehension. Can we work on this together?"
4. **Listen and Ask Questions:** Pay attention to the teacher's feedback and ask for explanations if needed.
5. **Respect the Teacher's Time:** Teachers are busy. Use email or messages when possible and allow time for responses.
6. **Check In Regularly:** If needed, set up weekly or monthly meetings to track your child's progress.
7. **Ask for Help When Needed:** If you don't understand an assignment or a school rule, ask the teacher for guidance.
8. **Work Together to Find Solutions:** If a problem arises, focus on solving it as a team rather than just pointing out the issue.

How Families Can Support Teachers:

- **Share Important Information:** Let teachers know about any big changes at home that may affect your child's schoolwork.
- **Get Involved at School:** Volunteer or attend events to show your support.
- **Encourage Good Behavior at Home:** Praise your child for positive efforts in school and reinforce classroom expectations.

Additional Resources:

- [Tennessee Department of Education Family Engagement Resources](#)
- [TNReady Parent Resources](#)