

Parents' CLIPBOARD

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

BY THE PARENTS & READING COMMITTEE OF THE COLORADO COUNCIL, INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

Making Parent-Teacher Conferences Work for You and Your Child

Meeting with your child's teachers should help build strong parent-teacher partnerships which are needed to reach the common goal of helping your child get the best education possible. All children learn in different ways. They have their own individual personalities, listening and work habits, and no one knows more about these things than you, the parents. To help their students learn new knowledge and skills, teachers must know as much as they can about each child's likes and dislikes.

That's why it's so important to plan for and attend parent-teacher conferences.

Getting Ready:

- Find out from your children before the conference the subjects they like least and best and WHY.
- Make notes about your concerns and questions you have such as:
 - Things about your child's life at home - personality, problems, homework, interests
 - Concerns you may have about the school's programs and policies

During the Conference:

- Some good questions to ask might include:
 - What are my child's best and worst subjects?
 - Does he participate in class discussions and activities?
 - Have you noticed any sudden changes in the way my child acts?
 - How does my child handle taking tests?
 - Is my child working up to his or her ability?

After the Conference:

- Start immediately on the action plan you and the teacher worked out together.
- Make sure your child knows that you and the teacher care about his progress.
- Stay in regular touch with the teacher to discuss the progress your child is making.

The 2003 report from the National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools found that **students with involved parents, no matter what their income or background, were more likely to:**

- **succeed in school**
- **attend school regularly**
- **earn higher grades**
- **graduate and go on to postsecondary education**



AWARD-WINNING BOOKS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY:

Beginner:

If You Decide to Go to the Moon
by Steven Kellogg

Mr. Penguin Osbert
by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel

The Umbrella
by Jan Brett

Intermediate:

Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude
by Kevin O'Malley

Grandmama's Pride
by Becky Birtha

Eragon
by Christopher Paolini

"The more you read,
the more things you will know.

The more you know,
the more places you'll go!"

DR. SEUSS