

What Can I Do to Prepare for Conferences?

- Write down your questions in advance. In the days prior to your conference. It's a great idea to write a list for yourself to help guide your discussion during the conference. If there have been items "you've been meaning to ask about," this is the perfect time to do it.
- Remember – you are part of a team. When children recognize that the teacher and the parents are partners in their education, studies show the student will rise to the occasion! By reinforcing the same things at home that the teacher is instructing in the classroom, your child will get a better understanding of what is expected.
- Be on time and stick to your allotted time. One of the best things you can do to help make sure your conference is a positive one is to prepare in advance. If you are slated for a 15 minute conference, try to stick to the 15 minute time frame. In many cases, parents take time off from work and it's not fair to further delay those who have appointments after you.
- Listen, Think about it. Your children are in school for six and half hours every day. And it is your child's teacher who is with him/her for the majority of those days. Who's better to give you and "insider's look" at what your child is like when he or she is away from you?! The best advice – listen – and ask for specific examples demonstrating the issue at hand.