



Resource 2

Communication Ideas for Parents

These actions will help you communicate with your child's teachers and school staff. Choose those that you think you can do and then revisit this list in about one month to check on your progress.

INTRODUCE YOURSELF	Introduce yourself to your child's teacher as early as possible in the year. Let the teacher know that you are a supportive parent and want to be involved in your child's learning.
DON'T BE A STRANGER	Parents send a message of support when they take the time to visit the school. Make an effort to have regular contact with school personnel. Make arrangements with the classroom teacher to occasionally visit the classroom, have lunch with your child or volunteer at the school.
TOUCH BASE	Talk with your child each day about what goes on at school. Learn the language of the classroom and use it to question your child about his/her day.
CONFERENCES	Attend parent-teacher conferences. Ask for a meeting if you have concerns or questions at other times of the year.
SHARE INFORMATION	Help your child's teacher by informing him or her of the learning styles and strategies that you use at home that work with your child. Also share the language and culture of your home.
QUESTION PRIVATELY	It is important that students view parents and teachers as a collaborative team. Questions or concerns should be handled privately between the parent and teacher. It is important to let your child know that you are communicating with the teacher.
ASK FOR E-MAIL VISITS	Sometimes your schedule and the schools don't match up. E-mail is an efficient way to communicate with school personnel. Check with your local library for Internet access if you do not have a home computer.
KEEP PERSPECTIVE	Parents sometimes have difficulty separating school concerns and issues from the emotional attachment they have for their child. Remember that the school is your partner, and by working together positively, you can help your child succeed to his or her fullest potential.