

# Teacher Communication Tips

Make a list of what you want to discuss with the teacher.

When appropriate, praise the teacher for specific things you feel good about. For example, "Mrs. Brown, thank you for spending extra time with Johnny and working on behavior. We really see results."

If you have a problem, discuss the specific things that bother you as they relate to your child. Do not generalize. In other words, you do not say to the teacher, "You are not teaching my child. This is going to be a wasted year." Instead, you say, "The math program does not seem to be working for Johnny. Is there a way we can change it to better meet his needs?"

Approach the teacher to discuss these concerns in a positive, non-threatening way.

Practice active listening to absorb information. Ask follow-up questions to help ensure your understanding. You'll be surprised how much you can learn from your child's teacher.

Keep the focus on your child, not the teacher's shortcomings. For example, relate specifically how and why a particular behavior modification practice will not work with your child, instead of complaining about the teacher's bad application of a behavior modification program.

Offer assistance in the classroom when possible. Decide with the teacher if this involvement is appropriate for your child.

Offer your time and talents. For example, volunteer to help with a field trip, tape a textbook chapter for a learning disabled child, etc.

When you make requests or suggestions, illustrate very specifically to the teacher how your suggestions can be implemented. Follow up your requests with a letter of thanks.

Don't make assumptions.



## Resources for Families

Need more information on IDEA, IEPs, or special education? Scan the QR code to access our online resources.



## Partners Resource Network



Offices in Lubbock, Houston, Austin, El Paso, and Dallas/Fort Worth



1.800.866.4726



[info@prntexas.org](mailto:info@prntexas.org)



[prntexas.org](http://prntexas.org)



Keep an open mind when working with your child's teacher.

Attend all ARD meetings and conferences.



## Have Questions about ARD Meetings?

Contact Partners Resource Network for assistance at 1-800-866-4726. Our Regional Coordinators are ready to help you with all your IEP concerns and can provide one-on-one individual assistance to fit your needs. All of our services are free of charge to parents and youth with disabilities.



*The contents of this publication were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H328M200041, #H328M200042, #H328M200043, #H328M200044. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.*