

## **What to expect at the Parent Teacher Interview**

**Who?** You, your **spouse** (if possible), and the teacher. You can bring your child and his/her **siblings** if you don't have a **sitter**. The teacher will usually have an activity or play space for the kids to play in while you chat.

**What?** An opportunity to listen and speak to your child's teacher. Be sure to read the report card first.

**Where?** In your child's classroom.

**When?** Usually twice a year, after report cards go out. You will probably only have 10-15 minutes with your child's teacher. Watch the clock and respect the time. Other parents are waiting. Many teachers do interviews on their own time. Arrive a few minutes early and wait outside the classroom until the teacher invites you in.

**Why?** To discuss progress and concerns. To receive suggestions. To review work.

**How?** You sit across from the teacher in your child's classroom

### **Small Talk**

Keep small talk to the bare minimum. Your child's teacher is very busy. One or two questions is fine. If the teacher asks you a small talk question (unrelated to your child's progress), keep your answer short and sweet.

#### **You can ask:**

"How is your class this year?"

"Have you always taught grade 3?"

### **Questions you may have for the teacher**

- How many students are in your class?
- How many ESL/EFL/ELL kids do you have?
- Does my son/ daughter need extra help?
- Is there any special area my child needs to work on?
- What books can you recommend?
- What level is my child reading at?
- Can you explain what this means on the report card? (point to your question)
- How is he/she doing compared to the rest of the class?
- What can we work on at home?
- How much time should he/she spend doing homework?
- Can you recommend any useful websites?
- How is my child's behaviour on the playground?
- What is the best way to contact you?
- Can you review the library/parking/attendance policy?
- Can you explain the dress code?
- Is my child participating?
- Does my child get along with the other kids?
- Do you need any help in your class?

### Concerns you may have

- My child does not understand your instructions.
- My child says he's **bored** at school.
- My child isn't eating his lunch.
- My child is having trouble making friends.
- My child is complaining about **bullying**.
- My child is **struggling** with math/reading/science.

### Concerns your child's teacher may have

- Your child is having trouble **concentrating** in class.
- Your child has difficulty following instructions.
- Your child needs to **participate** more.
- Your child is quite **shy**. I am trying to encourage her to open up.
- Your child **calls out** in class instead of raising his hand.
- Your child needs a **reading buddy**.
- Your child needs to practise getting dressed and undressed.
- Your child needs to work on his/her alphabet.

### Asking for clarification

- "I'm sorry I didn't understand what you said."
- "Can you please repeat that?"
- "Could you write that down for me?"
- "Could you speak a little more slowly?"

### Expressing gratitude

- "Thank you for teaching my child."
- "Thank you for being patient with my child."
- "Thank you for recognizing my child's special needs."
- "My child really enjoys coming to school."
- "My child is happy when he comes home from school."
- "I can see by your classroom that you are a very hard working teacher."
- "Teaching is a very hard job. I admire what you do."