

# BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

The pandemic has demonstrated that strong partnerships between parents/guardians and teachers help students learn. This guide includes steps and guidance for building a strong relationship with your child's teacher.



## Start A Partnership With Your Child's Teacher.



**ESTABLISH CONTACT EARLY.** Reach out to your child's teacher early in the school year to introduce yourself.

- Let the teacher know that you want to establish open and regular two-way communication to support your child's learning and growth.
- Continue to stay up to date on your child's grades and academic progress as well as social and emotional well-being.



**OFFER SUPPORT AND ASK QUESTIONS.** Share information about your child that will be helpful for the teacher.

- Ask questions about classroom expectations and offer to support the teacher by reinforcing expectations at home.
- Offer input on the expectations, be open about your child's needs and approach academic or behavioral challenges collaboratively.
- Thank them for taking the time to respond individually.



**GET INVOLVED.** Join the Parent-Teacher Organization and participate in school activities.

- Share insights about what works for your child with other families in the school community.
- Share with your child's teachers the interests that your child has, what motivates your child, and how they might celebrate your child in the classroom.

## Involved Parents And Guardians Help Their Child Succeed.<sup>1</sup>

With busy family schedules, it can be challenging to figure out where and how much to be involved at school. Here are five effective ways to get involved as a parent or guardian:<sup>2</sup>

1. Support your child by strengthening your connection to what's happening at school and reinforcing learning with activities at home.
2. Communicate regularly and clearly with your child's teacher about school programs and your child's progress.
3. If you have the time and ability, volunteer in the classroom, support school-wide efforts, and, if possible, serve in a leadership role to get involved in school decision-making.
4. Share ideas with other parents about strategies for learning at home and assisting with homework and other educational activities.
5. Identify and integrate resources and services from the community. For example, if you find reliable internet access through your local library, you can share that information with your child's teacher or school administrators.



### Looking for ways to start the conversation with your child's teacher?

Asking questions is a great way to engage your child's teacher for the first time. You and your child's teacher might benefit from clarity about expectations and ways to stay in touch. For example, start out by asking these questions:

- What is the best way and time of day for me to reach you?
- What can I do at home to reinforce what you are teaching in the classroom?
- What can I do to help you?

### Additional Resources:

- [How to Forge a Solid Parent-Teacher Relationship \(NewYorkTimes\)](#)
- [8 Tips for Building a Good Relationship with Your Child's Teacher \(Understood.org\)](#)
- [Parent Engagement in Schools \(CDC\)](#)

References: <sup>1</sup>Hill & Tyson, 2009 <sup>2</sup>Epstein, 2019

If you have any questions, please reach out to [rethink@ncpublicschools.gov](mailto:rethink@ncpublicschools.gov)