

Communicating with Families

As a teacher, you will be building relationships with both your students and their families. The child's future school success will be dependent on their time in the classroom and at home. Clear communication with families can build support for and strengthen the important work that you are doing in the classroom.

Benefits of Communicating with Families:

- They will have a better understanding of how you are helping to prepare their children for success in school.
- They will be aware of their children's progress in developing the building blocks of learning
- They will learn ways in which they can help their children at home.
- You will have a better understanding of the background and experiences of the children.
- The children will see that the adults in their life care about them and are interested in their learning and development.

Ways to Communicate with Families:

- Engage them in conversation when they drop off and pick up their children from school.
- Send home newsletters, notes, or emails to inform them of what their children are learning in your classroom.
- Schedule regular meetings to let them know how their children are progressing. Make sure you highlight their areas of strength and suggest ways to improve.

Teacher Talk: Examples of Good Communication

- You can help Roberto practice his "R" by writing his name and coming up with other fun words that start with the letter "R."
- Here's a book that Lucas was interested in today. It is about animals. Maybe you can go to the library and get another book about animals. You can also take this book and read it and talk about which animals he likes the best and why.
- As you know, today we went on a field trip to the grocery store. Ask Maurice to tell you some of the things we did.
- Jason's doing a great job of learning his letters. Maybe he can show you tonight how many he knows!
- Amanda is having a little trouble talking about the stories that I've been reading to the class. It would probably help if you could ask her to talk about the stories you read to her at home. When you've finished reading a book, you could say something like, "Amanda, can you tell your teddy bear what that story was about?"



Source: Excerpted from *Teaching Our Youngest: A Guide for Preschool Teachers & Childcare & Family Providers*, U.S. Department of Education

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