

My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource

Parents' Role in Education—Be a Part of It



Parents are partners in education. They are the primary guides and decision-makers for their children. As a parent, you understand how your child learns. You know your child's strengths as well as the areas where your child needs help.

Even though your child is attending school, your involvement in your child's education is important for his or her success in school.

Getting to Know Your Child's School

Ideas to get familiar with your child's school:

- Get to know your child's teacher(s), the school principal, and office staff.
- Attend parent-student-teacher meetings.
- Attend school events, information sessions, and concerts.
- Join the school council. The council is a group for parents that advises the school on important issues.
- Explore the school's website.
- Ask the school how you can get involved and maybe volunteer in the school.
- Volunteer to go on field trips and help the teacher.

How does the school communicate with parents?

Schools typically send the following information home with your child:

- progress reports about how your child is doing
- invitations to meet or talk to the teachers
- newsletters with information about school trips, special days, and events.

Student-Parent Handbook

Every school has a Student-Parent Handbook that contains information about:

- school rules and policies
- progress reports (report cards)
- the calendar of important dates and events throughout the school year
- expectations for student behaviour
- attendance policy
- medical emergencies
- school fees
- class trips
- transportation
- opportunities for parental involvement.

This information is usually on the school website, and many schools send a copy home with students. You can ask the school for an electronic or a paper copy of the Student-Parent Handbook.



Internet Communication

Many schools also use the Internet to share important information with parents. This information may include important announcements, dates of events and meetings with teachers, homework that teachers have assigned for your child to complete, report cards, and much more.

If you don't have access to the Internet, don't worry. Important information is also sent home regularly with your child.

If you are not fluent in English, ask someone who speaks your language to help you. You may be able to ask an immigrant-serving organization to help translate information you get from the school or to help you talk with your child's teacher or school.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

Parents can request an appointment to meet with their child's teachers anytime. However, all schools have times during the school year when they invite parents to visit the school and talk with the teachers.

At these meetings, parents talk with teachers about the child's education. Usually, your child will be invited to come to the parent-teacher meetings. These meetings are often informal.

Through parent-teacher meetings:

- you get to know the teachers and how they are teaching your child
- the teachers get to know you and your child better
- you learn how your child is doing at school
- you learn how you can help your child at home.

Ask questions to learn how you and the teacher can work together to support the learning and success of your child.

Talk with your child every day about what happened at school.

Ask your child about:

- what your child learned or did
- friends, fun things, activities
- what classes your child likes
- homework, tests, and assignments
- celebrations
- concerns.

With your child, look at completed assignments and tests. Talk about what was good. Talk about how to improve.



Things to Keep in Mind

- Encourage good study habits.
- Help your child be organized. Your child must plan and make time to complete assignments.
- Celebrate and encourage your child's efforts and success.

Learn more about your child's education by visiting
My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource
<http://www.mychildslearning.alberta.ca>