

CPCS...LYNNWOOD TIPS FOR PARENTS AT CONFERENCE TIME

When parents and educators work together, a child's learning improves. At least 1/3 of a child's school problems can be resolved by a face-to-face discussion with involved parties. It is conference time once again. The following are some tips to make this a productive experience for you and for your child.

- 1) Remember that you and the school are part of a team with the same goal: the best education for your child.
- 2) Have a positive attitude toward learning. It's contagious and your child will catch it.
- 3) Be organized. Keep a file with important school information about each child. Look it over before the conference to inform yourself of your child's progress. Bring this to the conference.
- 4) Make a list of points you wish to discuss or questions you want to ask. Bring this to the conference, as well.
- 5) Keep the teacher informed if there is something unusual going on in your child's life, for example, the death of a pet, a pending trip or divorce in the family.
- 6) Explain any special health or other problems your child may have. Does she take medication that makes her sleepy? Does he have mild seizure activity? The better informed the teacher is, the better the educational process can meet your child's needs.
- 7) Do not bring other children to your child's conference. They can be disruptive, and you want all your attention on the conference.
- 8) If your child is not to be included in the conference, talk to him or her ahead of time to find out if there is anything he or she would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- 9) If it is at all possible, have both parents attend, even if there is a divorce or separation. Children need the love and participation of both their parents and this shows them that their education is important to both of you.
- 10) Ask about classroom rules. How are the rules enforced? How is your child doing socially? How does he or she get along with others? Be prepared for surprises. Sometimes children behave one way at home and a different way at school.
- 11) Find out how much the teacher wants you to be involved in your child's homework and special projects.
- 12) Don't be defensive if you hear something negative. Instead, focus on working on solutions to problems.
- 13) Even if you disagree with the teacher, it's important for your child to know that you and the school are a united front. If you can't work things out with the teacher, talk to the principal. If your child knows you dislike his teacher, he can take that as having your permission to misbehave or refusal to do his work. This is not the best thing for the child.
- 14) Observe time constraints. Conference schedules are tight so please be on time and leave on time. If you have issues that did not get resolved or are too lengthy to discuss in a short time, schedule another conference.
- 15) Remember that a parent/teacher conference is a meeting of experts. The teacher is the expert on children in general, and you are the expert on this particular child. The conference is an opportunity to combine these strengths for your child's benefit.

**EARLY DISMISSAL NOVEMBER 18-23
PARENT CONFERENCES NOVEMBER 19-22!
HAPPY THANKSGIVING NOVEMBER 24-25!**

