

Tips for Communicating with Teachers

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1. Make an appointment to meet and talk. Don't just drop in.
2. Document what your child has done, said, is interested in, and has read; include dates.
3. Think through what you want to say before you go into your meeting with the teacher.
4. Choose your words carefully. Be careful to start with a positive thought.
5. Don't expect the teacher to do all the work or come up with all the answers. Build a partnership. Negotiate solutions.
6. Be diplomatic, tactful, and respectful.
7. Focus on what your child needs, not on what you think the teacher is doing wrong.
8. Don't forget to listen.
9. Bring your sense of humor.
10. Summarize what you both have agreed to do and the time line. Plan a time to talk about how the plan is progressing.

If your meeting isn't the success you hoped it would be, move up a level and try talking to the principal. Follow steps 1-10 again.

Walker, S. Y. (2002). *The survival guide for parents of gifted kids: How to understand, live with, and stick up for your gifted child.* (Revised & Updated Edition). Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing, Inc. Page 128.