

## Top Ten Tips for a Healthy Parent-Teacher Partnership

- 1) **Be involved.** Parent involvement helps students learn, improves schools, and helps teachers work with you to help your children succeed. Attend school events like back to school night. Check the school website frequently for information and opportunities.
- 2) **Share information.** When there is illness in the family, tension between parents, additional stress, such as the death of a pet, or a change in routine at home, it usually shows up as a change in your child's behavior at school. It's always helpful to give a call to the school and alert the teacher to the reason behind the clouds over your child's sunny disposition. Likewise, ask the teacher to let you know if something happens at school that might affect your child's behavior at home.
- 3) **Call the teacher first.** When there is an issue, call the teacher first. Teachers are aware of the wide range of supports that are available so if the counselor, coach, or principal are needed you can plan for that together.
- 4) **Keep track of the paperwork.** Read any notices sent home. Return any forms or papers requiring signatures promptly. Keep any graded assignments in a folder so you can refer to them if necessary.
- 5) **Keep your perspective.** Remember that what you hear from your child is from his/her point of view and may not be the whole story. Validate what his/her experience has been, but call and check in with the teacher before deciding on a course of action.
- 6) **Call teachers early if you think there's a problem.** Don't assume teachers know everything! If something happens that you don't understand, call the teacher right away. Waiting until you are angry and frustrated decreases the chance of a constructive conversation.
- 7) **Stay Positive.** No matter how angry or frustrated you may feel at first, never speak negatively or disrespectfully of your child's teacher in front of your child. This causes problems in the classroom and it is hard to repair the damage that's done.
- 8) **Set a good example.** Show your children by your own actions that you believe school is both enjoyable and useful. Monitor television viewing and the use of videos and game systems.
- 9) **Support school rules and goals.** Take care not to undermine school rules, discipline, or goals.
- 10) **Use pressure positively.** Encourage children to do their best, but don't pressure them by setting goals too high or by scheduling too many activities.