

Supporting Common Core State Standards

How to partner with your child's teacher

Many parents have questions about the Common Core State Standards. Even more parents worry that their children may struggle with the transition to a more rigorous curriculum. Forming a strong partnership with your child's teachers is the easiest thing you can do to get your questions answered and to make sure your child is on the right track for academic success.

Four tips for successful partnerships

When parents and teachers work together, the results can be powerful. Here are some ways you can work with your child's teachers throughout the year.

1 **Get to know your child's teachers**, and the sooner the better. Write a note or make an appointment to talk with teachers early in the year. Attend back-to-school night and parent conferences. Exchange contact information with teachers and find out the best way to keep in touch.

2 **Share information** that can make it easier for teachers to understand your child. Sometimes things that happen at home can affect how children learn. A family move, divorce, or even the birth of a baby can all leave a child feeling a little off-kilter.

3 **Contact the teacher** if you think your child is struggling. Sometimes, parents spot trouble before teachers do. If you are worried that your child is having difficulty in school, get in touch with the teacher right away.

4 **Make sure your child** comes to school on time each day. Learning builds day by day. Even the best teachers can't do the job if your child is absent. (Of course, your child should stay home if he is ill.)

Great questions to ask teachers

Whenever you meet with your child's teachers, bring a list of specific questions you'd like to ask. These might include:

- **What will be covered** in this grade or subject this year?
- **What are your expectations** for homework? Has my child missed any assignments?
- **How are my child's** work habits? Does she use time well?
- **Does my child** read at the level you would expect for this grade?
- **Is my child** able to do the math you would expect for a student at this grade?
- **Is my child** in different groups for different subjects? Why?
- **Has my child** been absent other than the times I contacted the school about?
- **Does my child qualify** for additional programs, such as gifted and talented, English as a second language or special needs education?
- **Does my child get along** well with others?
- **What can I do** at home to help my child be more successful at school?

