

## I feel my child is struggling socially.

### Questions You Should Ask:

1. Does my child have any friends at school?
2. Why do you feel my child is having problems socializing with other children?
3. Is there anything you can do in the classroom to help my child feel more comfortable around his/her peers?
4. Do you have any suggestions about what I could do at home to help my child get along better with his/her classmates?
5. Would it be a good idea for my child to talk to the school counselor or psychologist about ways to improve her/his socialization skills?

### Tips for Parents:

1. Try to make your home a place that helps your child's friends feel comfortable.
2. Invite a classmate to your home to play with your child.
3. Have your child participate in programs that bolster his/her interests, skills (karate, music, scouting) and circle of friends.
4. Let your child see you in social interactions so that he/she will have an appropriate role model.
5. Children with friends at school are generally happier than those without; however, solid relationships with family members, neighborhood children, and other adults can be good substitutes.



## I feel my child is doing well. What else is there to talk about?

### Questions You Should Ask:

1. What grade level is my child performing on in reading, math, social studies, and science?
2. How is my child doing in relation to the rest of the class? (Is my child performing in the top 25% or top 10 %?)
3. What do you see as my child's strengths and needs?
4. Could you tell me about my child's work ethic, relations with other children, behavior in class, and attitude toward learning?
5. Can you tell me what academic topics and skills will be emphasized this year in your classroom?

### Tips for Parents:

1. Give the teacher extra information about your child to help him or her know the child better.
2. Express your appreciation to the teacher for the good year your child is having at school.
3. Ask the teacher if there is anything special that you could do to help in the classroom this year.
4. Talk to your child each day about what is going on in school, and be sure to praise the effort she/he is putting into getting a good education.

**Suggested Questions Developed By:**  
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## Parents' Discussion Guide To Maximize Your

# Parent Teacher Conferences



### 5 Essential Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher:

1. What skills and knowledge will my child be expected to master this year?
2. How will my child be evaluated?
3. What happens when my child does not pass the evaluations?
4. How do you accommodate differences in learning?
5. What can I do to support my child's academic progress?

## I feel my child is not being challenged.

### Questions You Should Ask:

1. How is my child doing academically in your class?
2. Do you feel my child is quickly completing class assignments with little effort? What does my child do if he/she finishes an assignment early?
3. How can you challenge my child? How do you differentiate for my child?
4. Does the school have a formal program for gifted and talented children? Should my child be tested for it?
5. What can I do at home to enhance my child's educational experience?

### Tips for Parents:

1. Discuss with the teacher the possibility of your child spending less time with the curriculum mastered and more time with extension and enrichment opportunities.
2. Visit Internet sites ([www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)) to find ideas about how to challenge bright children.
3. Consider enrolling your child in some enrichment classes or activities either after school or on Saturdays. School districts, colleges, and museums offer these types of programs.
4. Join a parents' group involved in the education of gifted children.



## I feel my child is struggling academically.

### Questions You Should Ask:

1. Is my child performing at grade level in reading, math, social studies, and science?
2. What exactly do you feel is the problem or problems that are causing my child to struggle in school this year?
3. What special help can the school offer my child to get him or her on track academically as quickly as possible?
4. Does my child receive an intervention? Would it be appropriate to test my child for a learning disability?
5. How can I help my child do better in school?



### Tips for Parents:

1. Begin right away to work with your child on homework every night. Give assistance when it is required.
2. Study your child's daily papers carefully, and help him/her correct any mistakes.
3. Teach your child study skills such as reading directions carefully, studying examples in textbooks, and writing down assignments.
4. Collect information about your child's performance at school so you can closely monitor his/her progress.
5. Learn about your child's legal rights and the Response to Intervention (RTI) problem solving model in your school.

## I feel my child and the teacher don't get along.

### Questions You Should Ask:

1. Is my child behaving appropriately in the classroom?
2. Are you aware that my child is finding it difficult to work with you?
3. What suggestions do you have about ways my child could improve his/her relationship with you?
4. Do you have any ideas about how you might get along better with my child?
5. What can I do to support a positive relationship between you and my child?

### Tips for Parents:

1. Approach the conference with a cooperative attitude and avoid confrontation.
2. Make a list of the positive and negative experiences your child is having at school and share them with the teacher.
3. Remember that you have only heard half of the story. Could your child be overreacting to a situation?
4. Listen carefully to your child's comments about what is going on at school and help him/her find ways to handle the situation.
5. Visit the classroom to monitor your child's perception of the situation.

