



Tips for Conversations with Parents:

- Begin your conversation by highlighting some of their child's strengths. This will gain parent confidence and reinforce what the student is doing well.
- Have your reference material present (i.e. graded tests, papers, daily behavioral chart). This will help the parent know that you are basing your comments on facts and not just feelings.
- Talk about *specific* behaviors or academic challenges you have observed since the student has been in your classroom, but don't make assumptions.
- Make it a discussion not a lecture. Pause often and give the parent time to think and respond. Ask if they understand what you're saying and reinforce the fact that you're a *team*. The issue isn't only theirs.
- Observe the family make-up closely. If the child is the oldest in the family, the parent might not have experience to know the academic and social level their child should be reaching.
- Listen to and watch the parent closely to decide on how to proceed. Pay attention to tone of voice and body language. *Remain non-confrontational*.
- Give the parent time to think about everything and speak to the child's other caregivers especially if this is the first time the parent is being informed that there are some concerns about their child.
- Tell the parent that he or she is welcome to speak with the school counselor, social worker, or principal to address areas that need attention beyond your control or to discuss additional concerns.
- Remind the parent that you do your job because you love teaching, care about your students' and want to make sure their child does his or her very best.