

Helpful Questions to Ask Your Child about School

When your child comes home from school, you probably want to ask a lot of questions. To have the most helpful conversations, consider the following:



- Start with factual questions to ease into conversation.
- Avoid questions that can be answered by just one word, like *yes* or *no*. Ask questions that will keep a conversation going (open-ended questions).
- Avoid emotion-packed words (*fun*, *happy*, *sad*, *mean*) that may end a conversation.
- Allow for silence and for venting.
- Ask questions about times outside of classes (such as recess and lunch) to learn more about your child's social situation.

| Instead of | Try These |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| How was school? | What's the biggest difference between this year and last year? |
| Did you have fun at school? | What was the best thing you did at school? |
| Who did you sit with? | Which four kids sat closest to you today? |
| Was your teacher nice? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the most interesting thing your teacher said today? • What class rules did your teacher say are important? |
| Are you still hanging out with _____? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who did you enjoy talking with the most? • Did anyone have anything fun or interesting to talk about? |
| Are your friends in your classes? | Can you name two kids from each class? |
| Was the work hard? | What was the best thing your teacher asked you to do in _____ today? |
| Did you play with anyone at recess? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were most kids doing at recess? • What did you talk about at recess? |
| How was lunch? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who sat near you at lunch? • What were the other kids eating for lunch? • What was the funniest thing someone said at lunch? |