



Ohio Statewide
**Family
Engagement
Center**
——at The Ohio State University——



Launching Your Kid's Online Learning At Home

#GrandUnderstandings 

HELLO AND WELCOME!

Barbara Boone, Ph.D.

Director, Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Cent
Program Director for the Center on Education and
Training for Employment
The Ohio State University

I'm a beekeeper!



Kenyona Walker, Ph.D.

Program Manager for the Center on Education and
Training for Employment
The Ohio State University

I love to run in the morning!



WHO'S HERE?

Use the Chat to tell us:

Your name

Age(s) and grades of children in your home

What is working well this year so far with school for your family?

What is a challenge your children are facing with school?

Mission Control

Every child's team supporting their successful launch.

- ✓ Families
- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Community



What is certain?

- We can do this...together
- We will make mistakes... and learn from them
- We will learn from each other...and adapt and try new ways
- We will keep working at it...until we succeed



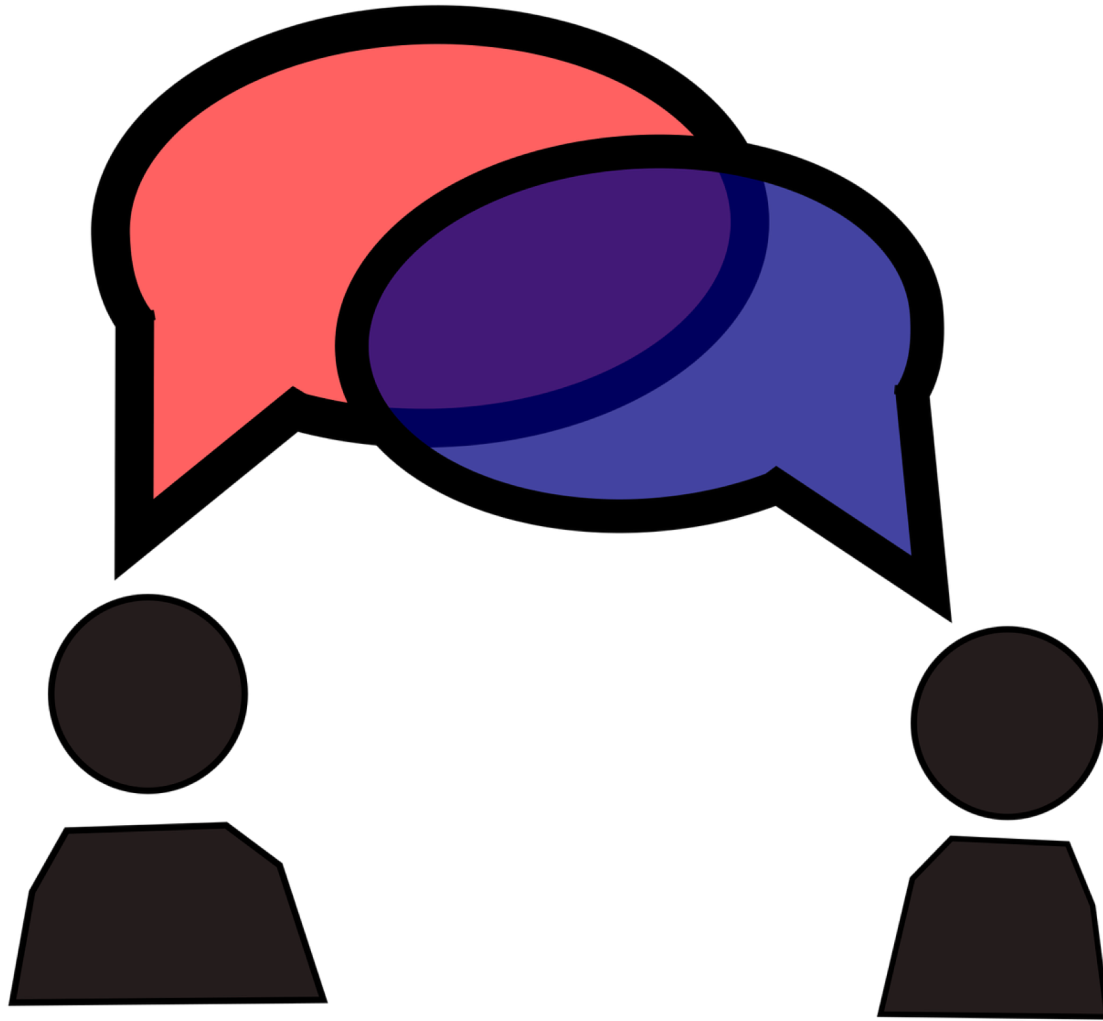


2

Big Ideas

- Communication with teachers
- Helping kids to be motivated and attentive to online learning

Two Way Communication



8

TIPS FOR COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

- Start Early
 - I want to hear from you.
 - Here's how you can best reach me.
 - I'm here to work with you.
 - This is how my child learns best.
- Let the teacher know when communication is not working.
- Be personal and positive. Teachers are humans too.
- Be proactive: Before problems get big.
- Keep your child active in the communication team!
- Most powerful: Presume Positive Intent

SUPPORT REQUESTS



You have the right to ask about things that are part of the teacher's role:

- ✓ What is my child learning right now?
- ✓ What activities are they doing for practice?
- ✓ How can we get more help with learning this content?
- ✓ How can we get the resources we need to do this learning?
- ✓ How is my child progressing?



—

Conversation Starters to Use With Your Child's Teachers

Can you suggest ways for me to help?

Are you seeing my child have trouble with other kids?

What are the biggest things my child needs to do to improve?

Do other student have similar challenges?

When do you see my child at their best?

How to talk with teachers

- Stay informed during the year.
 - Parent-teacher conferences.
 - How things are going between these updates.
- Contact the teacher if your child doesn't understand an assignment or if they need extra help to complete an assignment. Using e-mail helps send and receive messages at times that are convenient.



Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center
Every Child. Every Family. Every School.

Home For Families For Schools What is Family Engagement? Training Our Networks About Us

How to Talk with your Child's Teacher (Bilingual Website)

PUBLISHED JULY 19, 2019 | UPDATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2019



¡Colorín colorado!

En español: <https://www.colorincolorado.org/es/articulo/hablar-con-los-maestros-de-su-hijo>

Here are some tips from the Colorín Colorado website to develop a strong partnership with your child's teachers.

When should I talk with my child's teacher?

- **Early and often.** Contact your child's teacher or teachers at the beginning of the year or as soon as you can. Get acquainted and show your interest. During the school year, keep in touch with your child's teachers. This will help you strengthen the parent-teacher partnership, and will be an important part of the child's success in school. When a child sees that parents and teachers are working together, the child will understand that his/her education is a top priority at school and at home.

What else can I do to help my child's teacher?

- **Tell teachers what they need to know about your child.** You have important knowledge about your child's likes, dislikes, needs, and problems. It may be your son learns better when he sits close to the teacher. Maybe there was a death in the family and your child is having trouble concentrating. Letting the teacher know these things will help your child at school. If she has special needs, make these known from the beginning. If you notice a big change in your child's behavior, school performance or attitude during the school year, contact the teacher immediately.

Parent – Teacher Conference Worksheet

Parent-teacher conference worksheet

Review the questions below and add your own. Use the left-hand column to number the questions in order of importance. Start by asking the most important questions, since you may not have enough time for everything.

Priority	Questions to ask during the conference	Notes
	What will my child be learning in the next two months?	
	My child has some strengths and some challenges. Do you think my child has a good sense of what they are?	
	How can we communicate more regularly?	
	What can I do at home to reinforce what my child is learning in school?	
	What kinds of standardized tests will my child take this year?	
	Is my child getting any specific help with math or reading?	
	Should I get a tutor get a tutor for my child?	
	Should I ask the school to evaluate my child?	
	Should I talk to anyone else at school about my child's progress?	
	When can I get an update on my child's progress?	

10 Tips to Make the Most of Your Parent-Teacher Conference



By The Understood Team



FEEDBACK



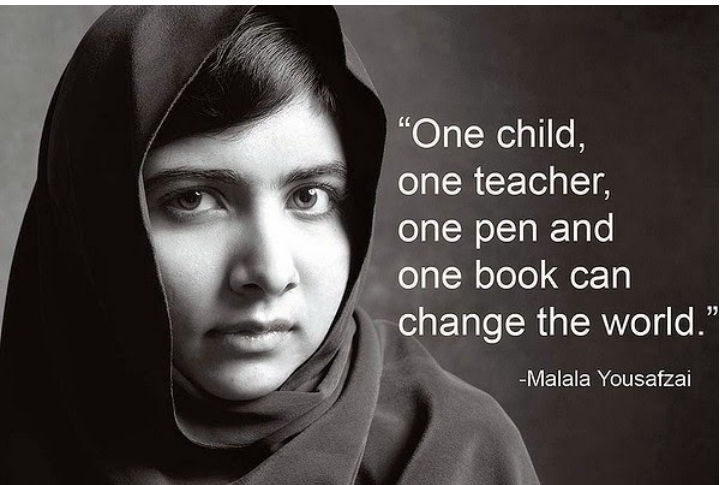
You are the expert in your child, and teachers rely on you to give feedback:

- ✓ What's working particularly well for my child is...
- ✓ What's not working so well for my child is...

Remember! You share a goal: your child's success.

Teachers can't do their part without you.

VALUING EDUCATION



- ✓ I expect you to learn so much this year!
- ✓ Tell me about something cool you're learning.
- ✓ I can really see you growing this year!
- ✓ Let's talk about how this connects to what's happening in the world right now.
- ✓ Let's talk about how this connects to your future goals.

VIRTUAL LEARNING CONCERNS: 1

Low Motivation



ASK QUESTIONS

You notice that your 3rd grade grandson takes a long time to get to the computer to start his day. And when he is “in-class” he doesn’t answer questions. Lately he has not completed his independent work without many reminders from you. You may want to:

Contact the teacher first, to see if this is something other students are experiencing.

If its just your grandson, then you may want to start a conversation by saying:

I noticed that you don't seem interested in school. I'd love to understand why.



VIRTUAL LEARNING CONCERNS: 2

Inattentiveness



ASK QUESTIONS

You notice that your 5th grade granddaughter seems distracted during class. When she works on her assignments she often does not know what to do and always has her school stuff scattered around the room. You may want to:

Contact the teacher first, to see if this is something other students are experiencing (For younger students).

Start a conversation with her by saying:

Sometimes it seems like you're daydreaming or not focused during class. I would like to understand why so that I can help you.





JOURNAL WHAT IS HAPPENING

1. What time of day does the behavior occur?
2. Is it during the same subject or class?
3. What happened before the behavior occurs?
4. What activity is your grandchild engaging in instead of what they should be doing?



5 WAYS TO BUILD SKILLS

- ✓ Reduce distractions
- ✓ Create a daily schedule (visuals helps)
- ✓ Prep child for transitions
 - ✓ Build excitement and suspense
- ✓ Model the behavior
- ✓ Use a reward/token system with the child's input

WHAT TO DO IF IT CONTINUES

Contact with the teacher, an administrator, etc.

Share your concerns, your journal and reward information.



Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center
 Every Child. Every Family. Every School.

Home For Families For Schools What is Family Engagement? Training Our Networks About Us

THE CHOOSING A SCHOOL TOOL

Our *Choosing a School Tool* was designed to help you figure out what kind of school is the best fit for your child. It guides you through a series of questions, like a trusted friend might, to help you think through all of the options.

Ready to get started?

[Yes! Let's get started.](#)

[No, just show me all options.](#)

Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center
 Every Child. Every Family. Every School.

Home For Families For Schools What is Family Engagement? Training Our Networks About Us

Talking Points for Conversations with Your Children about Returning to School

PUBLISHED JULY 27, 2020 UPDATED JULY 31, 2020

As students and their families face a back-to-school transition unlike any other year, families have a vital role in helping their children to prepare for the changes and process their feelings.

We have put together the following considerations and talking points for conversations between parents/caregivers and children based on an article from *BusinessInsider.com*.

1. Explain how your school will be restarting. Share what you can, based on the information your school has told you about how school will restart this fall.

Talking Points

- Tell me what you think it will be like for you when you get started in school this year.
- How do you think your school is planning to keep people safe?
 - Here are the people you will see wearing masks...
 - Your school will be having you wash your hands more often and use...

Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center
 Every Child. Every Family. Every School.

Home For Families For Schools What is Family Engagement? Training Our Networks About Us

Supporting Learning, Routines, and Self-Care at Home: School & Family Resources from the Ohio Center for Autism and Low-Incidence (OCALI)

PUBLISHED APRIL 28, 2020 UPDATED JULY 31, 2020

OCALI's Stay Safe, Strong, and Supported COVID-19 Resources

#HereToHelp
FOR FAMILIES & CAREGIVERS

#HereToHelp
FOR PROFESSIONALS

Each of the buttons above link to OCALI's new resources for remote learning during the pandemic: the blue button is for parents and caregivers, and the orange button is for school/community professionals. There is so much to dig in and explore, using the dropdown menu buttons on OCALI's website on the left side, once you select a topic.

We love the supports they have available for schools addressing remote learning for students with complex learning needs, including an example with grade-level resources for a whole set of daily routines from Arkansas.

We also love the supports directed towards families for self-care, routines, and understanding Coronavirus, including comics and options for visual learners about wearing a mask from Connecticut. These are but a few examples of what you can find.

Visit our website at ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu for more resources for families and schools.

#GrandUnderstandings

THANK YOU!



ABOUT US

Grandfamilies are families in which a grandparent directly cares for a grandchild (Generations United, 2020). Similarly, Kinship Families are formed when a child is cared for by someone who is not their parent. These relationships may include caregivers who are not biologically related to the child (Franklin County Children Services, 2020). Regardless of their titles, these non-traditional families are often formed out of need. Some Grandfamilies are formed due to formal parental contact with the juvenile court systems, where a minor child is temporarily or permanently placed with a grandparent. And other grandfamilies are formed for a variety of reasons.

