

YOUR GUIDE TO
**MAKING THE
MOST OF PARENTS'
EVENING**



WHY ATTEND PARENTS' EVENING?

Parents often find it difficult to attend parents' evenings for a number of reasons and you may feel that you do not get sufficient time with the teacher or that they have only known your child for a short period of time.

However, taking the time to meet with them at this stage in the school year will help you both to understand and agree on the roles you play in your child's education.

It is much easier to iron out any problems now than wait to address them later on. You may regret a missed opportunity to find out how you can support your child's learning – and remember that teachers really value your views too!



WORKING TOGETHER

When schools and parents work together, children do better. By sharing information about your child and asking questions about their learning, you are strengthening your partnership with your child's teacher. This will ultimately help them to help your child.

HERE ARE OUR
TOP TIPS

TO GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR
PARENTS' EVENING



1.



KNOW YOUR STUFF

Sometimes you will receive a report prior to parents' evening. It is important that you take the time to read this report, especially the 'Next Steps' section, as this is what your child will be currently working towards. This can be a good starting point for your discussion with the teacher. Be sure to ask if you don't understand anything in the report too!

2.

LET YOUR CHILD BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION

If your child is older, and it is appropriate, you might want to involve them in the discussion about their attainment and progress. This will help them to feel involved in their learning and empower them with the confidence to make decisions about their future education.

3.

USE TECHNOLOGY TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

Technology is a wonderful tool for communication. If only one parent is able to attend, you can ask the teacher for permission to record the discussion on a phone for the benefit of the other parent. You can also, with permission, take photographs of your child's work with a mobile phone.



4.

HOME LIFE

Letting your child's teacher know what's going on outside of school, such as a change in family circumstances, or anything that may be worrying your child, is really helpful. You are not obliged to talk about anything that you don't feel comfortable sharing, but the school will appreciate any information that may be impacting your child's learning.



5.

ENGLISH IS YOUR SECOND LANGUAGE

If English is an additional language for you, most schools will welcome a relative or friend who can support your communication with the teacher. They may even get in touch with a translator for you.



6.

ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

You can prepare for parents' evening by thinking about any questions you want to ask. Ultimately, every parent wants to know if their child is happy at school, but you might consider asking what you can do to help your child at home, or what your child will be learning about next. You will pick up some practical tips and sometimes schools provide parents with extra information to take home too! Don't be afraid to write the questions down and take notes with you.

QUESTIONS

We've put together some useful questions to take along to your next parents' evening, feel free to note down your own at the bottom!

Start by talking a little about yourself and your child, giving the teacher an insight into your family life.

- Is my child's progress in line with your expectations?
- How often will my child receive homework and is there any guidance on how I can support my child at home with this?
- If my child misses a day of school, what is the process for catching up on any missed work?
- If I have any questions, what is the best way to contact you?
- I would like to set an ambitious but achievable academic and behavioural goal for my child, to review at our next parents' evening. What do you think these should be?
- When are your available times during the day for my child to come to you with questions or for additional support?
- How often can I expect updates to be shared about my child's progress and current working levels? How will they be shared?
- Are there any additional books or apps my child could use to aid their learning?

NOTES



STEPS TO TAKE

AFTER PARENTS' EVENING

1.



STEP ONE

Discuss with your child what the teacher said. They may already be aware of what they need to work on, but if they don't, then it's a great opportunity to have a chat about it. Set a goal together of something they would like to achieve by the end of next term and make a plan on how to get there.

For example: You're told they give up every time they have to learn something new, such as times tables. The goal you come up with together is to have a 'can-do attitude'. Steps to getting there could be taking a new set of tables and learning them in small batches. Praise them for the ones they have got right, alongside highlighting when they are being positive towards their learning. As a result they will know what kind of attitude is expected.

2.

STEP TWO

If you've set any goals with the teacher, plan a time to review these. Depending on how the teacher likes to work, this could be an email, call or face-to-face catch-up 6-8 weeks after the initial meeting. Review how things are going and make changes if needed.

My Progress

Last skills mastered

- Multiply and divide whole numbers by 10, 100, and 1000
- Interpret line graphs
- Add and subtract whole numbers larger than 4 digits
- Round numbers up and down
- Multiply and divide numbers mentally

Explore LEARNING

Name: Rose

Make your action SMART
Complete this goal setting poster with your child and start tracking their progress.

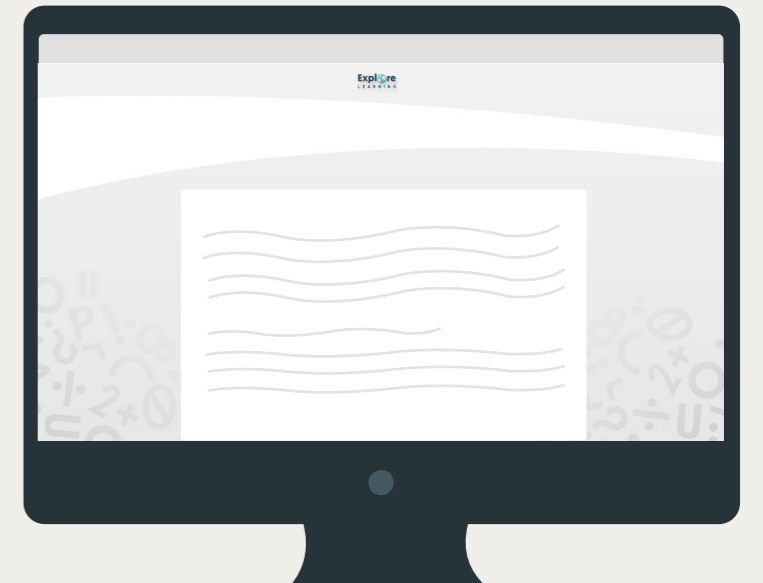
S	M	A	R	T
Specific Describe your main goal. Read a book to my parents.	Measureable How will you know you're on the right track? By setting weekly targets of how much to read.	Achievable Who will help you achieve your goal? My mum and dad.	Relevant How will this goal help your future learning? It will help me learn and read everything around me.	Time I will achieve my goal by: June 2020.

Milestones: Write down four milestones you are hoping to achieve on your way to your main goal.

1. Take it in turns to read a sentence each with my parents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mum	13 / 01 / 2020
2. Summarise what I've read on a page.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dad	03 / 05 / 2020
3. Predict what is going to happen on the next page.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dad	15 / 05 / 2020
4. Read a whole book to my parents!	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mum	01 / 06 / 2020

Tools: What will you need to achieve your goal?
Books
My parents!
Perseverance
What motivates you?
Missing my parents' proud.

Goal Master: Rose
Goal Coach: Mum



3.

STEP THREE

Don't be afraid to ask. If you come away from a parents' evening and you've forgotten something, or realised you don't understand how the school is reporting on progress, contact the school or look on their website, as you may find a wealth of information on there.

ABOUT EXPLORE

Explore Learning is an award-winning tuition provider supporting 4-14 year olds with their maths and English skills, developing confidence, learning habits and self-belief, to create fearless learners.

OUR MISSION

We will change children's lives by nurturing their skills and attitudes to become fearless learners – our members will thrive in their education and beyond.

explorelarning.co.uk



4.



STEP FOUR

Seek help if you need it! Don't worry if you don't understand something, or want to know what others are doing. Lots of people will be in the same position, so talk to fellow parents for advice. Alternatively, there are some great advice websites like theschoolrun.co.uk and oxfordowl.co.uk or if you have a tutor, talk to them. At Explore Learning our tutors always help parents when they need advice. Never be afraid to ask – there is no such thing as a silly question when it comes to your child's learning!



MATHS
ENGLISH
PROBLEM SOLVING
CONFIDENCE
11 PLUS PREPARATION
READING
COMPREHENSION
SPELLING
LOVE OF LEARNING
LIFE SKILLS

explorelarning.co.uk

146 
centres
nationwide

250,000
children
supported

4.7
★ Trustpilot
Rated 'Excellent'




63 Mumsnet testers tried Explore Learning's Tuition Service: 76% would buy and 86% would recommend.