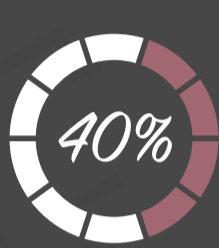


First-Time Teacher's Guide For Talking To Parents



The Importance of a Teacher-Parent Relationship



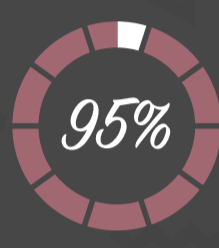
The odds of completing homework increases by **40%** for students with teacher-family communication.¹



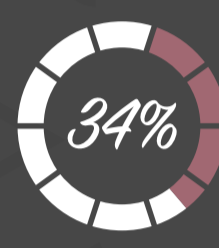
Teacher-family communication has also shown to improve student behavior and social skills.¹



Involved parents tend to have a more positive view of teachers, which helps improve teacher morale.²



One survey found **95%** of students with actively involved parents have better physical and mental well-being.³



A lack of academic support and supervision makes students **34%** more likely to drop out.³

Preferred Methods of Teacher-Parent Communication

Email and text messaging are the most commonly preferred when discussing grades, scheduling and health concerns.⁴

Face-to-face communication is viewed as being more useful when discussing complex issues, such as concerning behavior.⁴

Face-to-face interactions and phone calls help ensure that the relayed information is less likely to be misinterpreted.⁴



Parent Communication Best Practices for First-Time Teachers



Meeting or communication preparation

- Choose the right communication channel.
- Approach with a goal in mind.
- Gather specific information about the student (academic strengths, weaknesses and special needs).
- Review school policies and procedures for parent-teacher interactions.



Effective communication strategies

- Present a professional attitude.
- Use active listening skills.
- Be clear and use jargon-free language.
- Treat parents as the experts on their child.



Difficult conversation management methods

- Talk about and give examples of behavior you observe, not your perceptions.
- Collaborate with parents to set actionable steps.
- Speak in a consistently relaxed and friendly manner.
- Do not take aggressiveness or negativity personally.
- Gauge any accusations for hidden meanings or messages.



Positive relationship building

- Show empathy by putting yourself in their shoes.
- Respond promptly.
- Ensure any advice is well reflected.
- Provide regular updates about current and future events.
- Express appreciation for parental involvement.