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Listening, learning, and living together: it's the science of life.

Building a Partnership with Your Child's Teachers¹

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As a parent, you can help your child achieve in school by becoming involved and forming a partnership with his teachers and counselors. Many parents wait until there's a problem or concern to learn about their child's school. You can help your child do his best by beginning a relationship with his teachers before a problem occurs. Your involvement shows your child that you value education, so plan a visit as early in the school year as possible to meet the teachers and administrators.

Parent-teacher associations suggest appropriate questions to ask your child's teachers. They include,

"What are your goals for your students this year?"

"What kind and how much homework are your students expected to do each night?"

"How will I know what assignments are given?"

"What is the best way for me to contact you?"

By learning more about the school, you may also have an easier time talking about school issues with your child, since you'll have direct experience yourself.

It can be difficult for parents, especially working parents, to attend many school functions, but it is important to try to attend some each year. Research shows that children

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feel recognized and get slightly higher grades when parents demonstrate an interest in school by attending school activities.

Building a partnership with your child's teachers shows your commitment to education and may motivate your child to do his or her best in school.

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