

Working with your child's teacher

There are lots of ways parents can come into school on a more formal basis and yet still be pretty informal. They can help in classes, they can help when we know it's a real busy time. There are more formal things, such as parent governors, play a really important role in the school. Just coming in and it all impacts on children and their learning.

The children like to know that their parents do take an interest. If they know that their mam and dad, or grandma even, is going to come to school, it's nice for them, like, to show off their work they've done at school. It's nice to just come along and help out.

Yes, he's very happy to see me here doing with him today.

Yeah, I have no problem about approaching the teachers.

... cause I don't feel that they're superior to myself, so therefore I think I can approach them because they're actually looking after my child.

A lot of parents might feel apprehensive about coming into school, but I would say that children appreciate their parents coming in.

What do you think to that? Yeah?

I like it when my mum comes into school. I like talking to her.

When we ask children about their parents and them coming into school, young children are always very, very enthusiastic because they've got one-to-one attention with the parent. They are proud of what they do and they want their parents to see what they do and it's that interaction and eye contact with the parent that they really enjoy. And they get that when parents come into school.

My daughter knows that we're interested as parents, mum and dad, what she's doing at school, which for her gives her a psychological boost to know that her mum and dad care about every aspect of her life, not just her home life. It really increases her self-esteem, which is so important for children these days.

What if a parent is nervous about talking to their child's teacher?

I would always say to a parent if I thought that they were worried about something, but they didn't want to trouble us, or they felt that it may be seen as too trivial, I would always say, if it's important enough for you to be thinking about, then you need to come in.

Teachers like to hear what parent's have to say

It's really important that parents know when they do voice an opinion that it's listened to.

What I would suggest is that communication still is the key. Even if you feel that you're not able to go into a parents' evening setting, just write a letter or send an email or just phone them up on the phone. They are more than willing to help you because they want the best for your child, just as you do.

TOP TIPS**Have well defined rewards and penalties for behaviour**

When we can access parents, we see improvements in children's behaviour, we see improvements in the children's work. The child then sees the link between home and school. You know, the two are joined. The school isn't just somewhere you go through the day and then you go home at night.

Remember, schools welcome parents**Help out in your child's school when you can****If you have any concerns, talk to your child's teacher**

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