

5 Ways Parents Can Support Strong Teacher Communication

1. BUILD A POSITIVE EMOTIONAL BANK ACCOUNT

Share praise with your teacher whenever you can.

Send emails, texts, or other messages to share the “good things” with teachers.

Invest in that positive bank account with teachers, so that it is built up if you need to withdraw “money” and ask for flexibility or additional support.

3. OFFER TO START OR HELP MONITOR A PARENT FORUM METHOD

If your teacher is open to it, offer to start a parent forum. This can serve as a way for parents to communicate with the teacher easily and ask questions to the teacher or to each other.

You could start a Facebook page, manage a spot on Google Classroom, start a GroupMe conversation, or another school-approved method of communication.

Make sure to invite all parents and guardians of the class!

5. COME PREPARED TO PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

Teachers typically have a lot of information to give you about your student and their academic and social progress. Thinking through what you would like to know and discuss can help everyone feel like the conference is a meaningful dialogue instead of a one-sided presentation.

Check out [Possip's guide to Parent / Teacher conferences](https://possip.com/make-the-most-of-your-parent-teacher-conference-tips-for-parents/) (https://possip.com/make-the-most-of-your-parent-teacher-conference-tips-for-parents/) for specific ideas on how to maximize your time with your teachers!

2. ASK TEACHERS WHAT THEY NEED

Reach out to teachers via email, call, text, or other school communication tool and see what they need.

Here are some ideas for asking what teachers might need from you throughout the year:

- Beginning of the year:
 - Do you need help sorting and storing supplies?
 - Are there any supplies that you could use more of?
- Throughout the year:
 - Is there anything I can prepare for you at home and drop off at school – like putting together little reader books or washing and folding extra sets of clothing?
 - Do you need more tissues, hand sanitizer, dry erase markers, or sharpened pencils?
- When holidays approach:
 - Do you need help coordinating parent volunteers?
 - Do you need help coordinating things families can send in for the special day?

4. SUGGEST A BRAINSTORM SESSION

Some teachers may be very open to getting thoughts and ideas from parents.

Approach this brainstorming session as something that you both don't have answers to but want to create helpful communication methods for both teachers and parents.

