

# PARENT HELPERS

## COMMUNICATING WITH TEACHERS

Joan Sedita, M.Ed.\*

Too often, teachers claim that parents are not involved enough with their children's school work and parents claim that teachers do not provide enough information for them to help their children. To avoid this situation, communicate with your child's teachers as soon as possible – preferably before the first day of school – and maintain that communication throughout the year.

Ask the teacher what organization structures he/she provides, what he/she expects from students, and how you can help your child organize materials and study effectively. Ask the teacher to write homework assignments, with a lot of detail, on a blackboard for your child to copy so you will know what the homework is and how it is to be completed. Be willing to check, sign, and return a daily homework sheet to maintain communication between you and the teacher. If you think your child is spending too much or too little time on homework, ask the teacher to suggest how long each assignment should take to complete, then note back to the teacher how long it actually took. This will help you and the teacher have a better understanding of your child's homework needs.

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